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TEST BOOKLET SERIES

Only IAS

**Test Booklet
Preliminary Exam- 2019**

A

Only Current Affairs: Test-3

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

INSTRUCTION

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET **DOES NOT** HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES FOR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES A, B, C OR D AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **DO NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains 100 items (questions). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case, you feel that there is more than one response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item,
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the Answer Sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator **only the Answer Sheet**. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. **PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWER:**
 - (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question which has a penalty for which a wrong answer has been given by candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
 - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer; it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question,

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Only IAS Nothing Else "Planner For Test Series" Only IAS Nothing Else		
Date	Test No.	Syllabus (Current Affairs month)
25 November	Test: 1	May
9 December	Test: 2	June
23 December	Test: 3	July
6 January	Test: 4	August
20 January	Test: 5	September + October
3 February	Test: 6	November + December
17 February	Test: 7	January, May + June
3 March	Test: 8	February, July + August

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Date	Test No.	Syllabus (Current Affairs month)
17 March	Test: 9	March, September + October
24 March	Test: 10	March, November + December
31 March	Test: 11	March, January + February
7 April	Test: 12	Full Test
14 April	Test: 13	Full Test
21 April	Test: 14	Full Test
28 April	Test: 15	Full Test
5 May	Test: 16	Full Test

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1. Consider the following statements about DISHA Initiative that was in News-

- The scheme aims to link higher education institutions with set of at least five villages.
- This Initiative is under Ministry of Rural Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements about Helium-3-

- It is non-radioactive isotope of helium.
- The abundance of helium-3 is thought to be on the Moon.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following statements with reference to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA):

- Recently, India has pledged \$5 million for United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees.
- UNRWA is relief and Human Development Agency of UN.
- It is only UN agency dedicated to helping refugees from specific region or conflict
- It is Independent to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4
(c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

4. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), consider the following statements?

1. The program aims to provide free of cost antenatal care to all pregnant women.

2. The scheme is applicable only for pregnant women.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

5. India jumps one place to take 35th spot on Global Real Estate Transparency Index.

Which of the following has declared that ranking?

- (a) Transparency International
(b) Jones Lang LaSalle investment management company
(c) World Bank
(d) Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute

6. Consider the following statements about Ramanujacharya who was Recently In news:

1. He was important exponents of the Shaivism tradition within Hinduism.
2. Ramanujacharya is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita sub school of Vedanta.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

7. Consider the following statements regarding Chandrayaan-2:

1. It is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III).

2. If successful, Chandrayaan-2 will be the first-ever mission to land a rover near the lunar south pole.

3. It includes a lunar orbiter & lander developed by India and a rover developed by Russian Roscosmos.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

8. Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) in collaboration with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), has evolved Code of Bank's Commitment to:

1. Individual banking Customers
2. Power Sector
3. Stressed Companies in Steel and aluminum sector
4. Micro and Small Enterprises

Which of the above Choices is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 4
(c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

9. Which of the following states is India's single largest raw jute cultivator?

- (a) Bihar

- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

10. With reference to Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote economic development through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures.
2. Both Pakistan and China is not among the members of this agreement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) neither 1 nor 2

11. Consider the following statements with reference to Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP):

1. The SVEEP programme began from Bihar.
2. The programme involves carrying out Voters' Behaviour Surveys.
3. It's objective is to increase voter turnout in elections.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) all of the above

12. Consider the following statement -

1. The first complete census was taken in year 1881.
2. After 1949, the census has been conducted under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. India stored its decennial census data electronically for the first time in 2011.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) all of the above

13. Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2018 Held in:

- a) France
- b) Mongolia
- c) India
- d) Seychelles

14. Consider the following statements about World Customs Organization (WCO):

1. It is a Non-governmental organization (NGO).
2. India became its member recently.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) neither 1 nor 2

15. Consider the following statements about IFFCO iMandi:

1. It is an e-commerce app to address all needs of the farming community.
2. IFFCO has partnered with Japan-based technology firm iMandi for this initiative.
3. It has buy and sell feature to keep farmers engaged.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

16. With reference to members in Rajya sabha, consider the following statements:

1. 8 Members are nominated by President of India in Rajya sabha.
2. Nominated members in Rajya sabha enjoy all powers, privileges and immunities available to an elected Member of Parliament.
3. They are entitled to vote in the election of the President of India.
4. Nominated members must file his or her assets and liabilities within 90 days of his/her oath.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only (b) 1, 3 and 4
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 3 and 4 only

17. Which of the following statement is NOT correct about Tejas fighter aircraft?

- a) It is lightweight single-seat multi-role jet fighter.
- b) It has been pegged as world's smallest and lightest supersonic fighter.
- c) Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas is India's first indigenous fighter to be inducted into Indian Air Force.
- d) It is powered by a single engine.

18. With reference to Bansagar Dam, Consider the following statements:

1. Bansagar Dam is a multipurpose river Valley Project on Chambal River situated in the Ganges Basin in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is a joint venture between Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

19. Consider the following statements about Peace Mission:

1. It is a military exercise that held under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
2. It was for first time since Independence that India and Pakistan both participated in a military exercise.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

20. Consider the following statements with regarding World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):

1. Recently, India approves accession to WIPO Copyright Treaty and WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty, 1996

2. WIPO is a specialized agency of the United Nations.

3. Its mandate is to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

21. Orion Spacecraft which has been designed to carry astronauts to deep space destinations like Moon and Mars was recently in News. It has been planned to be launched by:

- (a) NASA
(b) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
(c) European Space Agency
(d) German Aerospace Center

22. Which of the following are criteria for declaring a village as electrified?

1. The number of households electrified should be at least 70% of the total number of households in the village.

2. Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centers, Dispensaries, Community centers etc.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

23. Consider the following statements with reference to Minimum Support Price (MSP):

1. Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) announces MSP for various crops.

2. MSP is announced for various crops on the recommendation of Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs.

3. MSP is announced at the end of each sowing season.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) None of the above

24. The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a U.S. trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world. Recently, US has announced eligibility review of which of the following countries for GSP:

1. India
2. Indonesia
3. Kazakhstan's

4. China

Which of the above Choice is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 (b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

25. The World Press Freedom Index is published by:

- (a) World Bank
(b) International Federation of Journalists
(c) Reporters without Borders
(d) International Freedom of Expression Exchange

26. Consider the following statements about Vikas engine -

1. It belongs to family of Liquid fuelled rocket engines.
2. It has been recently, designed by ISRO's the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

27. Consider the following statements-

1. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body.
2. It is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions.
3. It comes under Ministry of external affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

28. Consider the following statement about Golden Jackal-

1. It is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
2. It is listed in the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, under Schedule III.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

29. Shri Anil Swarup which was recently in news is related to:

- a) Synergizing NCC and NSS
b) Formulating food policy
c) Disinvestment
d) Agricultural credit system

30. Consider the following statements with reference to National database of arms licenses system-

1. All the arms license holders will be included in this database.
2. Everyone will be issued a unique identification number.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

31. Consider the following statements with reference to Global Compact for Migration:

1. It is the first intergovernmental agreement to cover wide-ranging dimensions of international migration.
2. It is legally non-binding.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

32. Consider the following statement about remotely operable Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) microscope -

1. It is claimed to be world's first remotely operable LEAP microscope.
2. It can provide a precise atom-by-atom view of materials.
3. It has been developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

33. Kuznets curve sometimes seen in News Related to:

- (a) Inequality
(b) Gender Gap
(c) Poverty
(d) Unemployment

34. Consider the following statements about FASTag -

1. It is device that uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.
2. It will help farmers to make online payments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

35. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

1. It assists developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.
2. It was founded as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.
3. Its headquarters is in Nairobi.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

36. with reference to Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE Scheme), consider the following statement-

1. It aims to lend low-cost funds to government higher educational institutions
2. It will be financed by Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA).
3. This scheme will cover all centrally-funded institutes (CFIs) including central universities.
4. All infrastructure and research projects sanctioned by HEFA are to be completed by December 2022.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 2 only (d) all are correct

37. Kanyashree Prakalpa initiative belongs to which state:

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
(b) West Bengal
(c) Bihar
(d) Telangana

38. Consider the following statements about Bureau of Civil Aviation Security -

1. It is attached office of the Ministry of Home affairs.

2. It was initially set up as a Cell on the recommendation of the Pande Committee.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

39. Consider the following statements with reference to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI):

1. It is a Swedish think tank dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
2. It is an independent institute that receives a substantial part of its funding from the United Nations.
3. It updates the Global Military Expenditure Database annually.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

40. Consider the following statement with reference to Bharat Stage Emission Standards:

1. It is emission standards instituted by the Government of India in the year 2000.
2. It is based on US standards.
3. It is to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engines.

4. The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Indian Pollution Control Association.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

41. Which state government o launched a power bill waiver scheme and subsidized power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families:

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
(b) Telangana.
(c) Manipur.
(d) Kerala.

42. Consider the following statement with reference to pardoning power of President and Governor:

1. The scope of the pardoning power of the Governor is wider than the pardoning power of the President.

2. President and Governor both have pardoning power in case of court martial.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

43. Consider the following statements with reference to Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI):

1. It is the national professional accounting body of India.

2. It is a statutory body.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

44. Which of the following with reference to Communal Award is/are correct?

1. In this award depressed classes were given seats which had to be filled by election from the special constituencies in which only they could vote.

2. As per this award people from depressed class were not eligible to vote in the general constituencies.

3. Mahatma Gandhi supported this award.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

45. Women Entrepreneurship Platform was launched by:

- (a) Ministry of women and child development
(b) Niti Ayog
(c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
(d) Ministry of Human resource and development

46. Consider the following statements with reference to -

1. Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is the minimum price that the sugar mills have to pay to farmers.
2. India is world's largest sugar producer.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

47. Consider the following statements with reference to Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan:

1. It was organized by Ministry of Environment & Forest and climate change.
2. The campaign was initiated as part of the Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG) component.
3. Schools, colleges and departments were requested to "Adopt a Plant" for turning this campaign into a people's movement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

48. With reference to Exercise Pitch Black 2018 consider the following statement:

1. It is a biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the British Royal Air Force.
2. The Indian Air Force for the first time participated in this exercise.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

49. Consider the following statements regarding International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS):

1. It is an intergovernmental organization.
2. It is devoted to international cooperation in the field of geology.

Choose the correct answer from the code given below

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

50. Consider the following statements about All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It accredits graduate and post graduate programs at Indian institutions.

Which of the above statements is/are NOT correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

51. Consider the following statements with reference Student Police Cadet Programme:

1. It was sponsored by Ministry of Human resource and development.

2. It seeks to build a bridge between the Police and the larger community through school students.

3. The programme focuses on students of class 11th & 12th.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

52. Which of the following are correctly matched?

New Currency Monument on Reverse side

- | | |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1. ₹100 | Rani ki vav |
| 2. ₹200 | Sanchi stupa |
| 3. ₹ 50 | Stone Chariot of Hampi |
| 4. ₹ 10 | Konark temple |

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 3 and 4
(c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

53. Eta Carinae sometimes seen in news, is

- (a) an asteroid
(b) A massive stellar system
(c) A Dwarf star
(d) A meteorite

54. Consider the following statements about No Confidence Motion:

1. It is introduced only in Lok sabha.

2. There is no mention of No confidence motion in constitution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

55. Consider the following statements with reference to Samagra Shiksha scheme:

1. It is a programme for school education extending from Primary till class 12.

2. Padhe Bharat- Badhe Bharat initiative has been launched under this scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

56. Consider the following statements with reference to Stree Swabhiman initiative:

1. Stree Swabhiman is an initiative under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

2. The main objective of this initiative is to promote job opportunity for women in MSME sector.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

57. Which of the following countries share border with Israel?

- (a) Jordon and Libya
- (b) Jordan and Egypt
- (c) Jordan and Turkey
- (d) Egypt and Tunisia

58. Consider the following statements about Delhi dialogue:

1. It is premier annual event to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement.

2. It is held between India and other BRICS Nations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

59. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Recently seen in News is a critical part of:

- (a) Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve
- (b) Seshachalam Hills
- (c) Simlipal Biosphere Reserve
- (d) Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve

60. Recently, Which of the following species has been added by National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) into its Centre's Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species?

- 1. Northern River Terrapin
- 2. Clouded Leopard
- 3. Arabian Sea Humpback Whale
- 4. Red Panda

Choose the correct code?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

61. Global slavery Index, sometimes seen in news, is published by:

- (a) Oxfam
- (b) Economist Intelligence Unit
- (c) Walk free Foundation
- (d) World economic Forum

62. Consider the following statements with reference to Solar Park Scheme:

- 1. It is a scheme to set up number of solar parks across various states in the country.
- 2. It will be implemented by Bureau of energy efficiency.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

63. Consider the following statements about SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting):

- 1. It has been indigenously developed.
- 2. It will monitor all weather parameters.

3. It was unveiled in Mumbai.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only (d) all of the above

64. Consider the following statement about Pangolins:

1. It is a species of reptiles.
2. They are nocturnal.
3. They are listed by CITES in its Appendix I.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only (d) all of the above

65. Recently, India-assisted ambulance service launched in which of the following county:

- (a) Bangladesh
(b) Myanmar
(c) Sri Lanka
(d) Nepal

66. Consider the following statements about IndARC:

1. It is the India's first underwater moored observatory.

2. It is located between Finland and the North Pole.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

67. Consider the following statements about Bhiku Ramji Idate Panel:

1. It was constituted by Niti Ayog.
2. It was constituted to set up a permanent commission for Denotified (DNT), Semi-Nomadic (SNT), and Nomadic Tribes (NT).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

68. Consider the following statements about Urja Ganga project:

1. It is a gas pipeline project.
2. The project is being implemented by state-run gas utility GAIL.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

69. Public Affair Index is released by:

- (a) Niti Ayog
(b) Public Affairs Centre

(c) Centre for Civil Society

(d) None of the above

70. Consider the following statements about 'Remote Sensing Toolkit'

1. It has been launched by ISRO.
2. It is an online toolkit to promote commercial use of satellite data.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

71. Consider the following statements with reference to World Sanskrit Conference:

1. Recently, the 17th World Sanskrit Conference was held in Australia.
2. The World Sanskrit Conference held in various countries across the globe every year.
3. So far it has been held thrice in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1, 2&3

72. Which of the following country recently joined International Solar Alliance?

- (a) Bangladesh
(b) Mali
(c) Madagascar
(d) Myanmar

73. Consider the following statements about National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE):

1. It is statutory body of Central Government set up under NCTE Act, 1993.
2. It plans and co-ordinates the development of teacher education system throughout the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

74. Consider the following statements about Formalin Sometimes seen in News:

1. It is a toxic chemical, used to preserve bodies and prevent its decay in mortuaries.
2. A solution which contains more than 40% formalin has the capacity to kill a fully grown adult.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

75. Consider the following statements with reference to National Culture Fund (NCF):

1. It was set up with a view to mobilize extra resources through Public Private Partnerships.
2. It is managed and administered by a council headed by Culture Minister.

3. The donations/contributions to NCF are eligible for 100% tax deduction.

Which of the above schemes have been launched specially for youth?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

76. Project RAMA, recently seen in News, is:

- (a) An irrigation project across river Godavari in Telangana.
(b) To turn asteroids into giant, autonomous spacecrafts.
(c) To connect places related to lord Ram for pilgrimage.
(d) Launched for promoting Construction of Helipad.

77. Consider the following statements with reference to International Round Table Conference which recently held in India:

1. The objective of the Round Table Conference was to identify innovative ideas for improving the statistical system in India.
2. Such a Conference held in India for the first time.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

78. Consider the following statements about INS Trikand:

1. It is a Talwar class of frigates indigenously designed and built by India.

2. It recently reached Sri Lanka in goodwill visit.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

79. Consider the following statement about National mission for manuscripts:

1. It was recently launched by Ministry of Culture.
2. It aims for documentation, conservation, preservation and digitization of manuscripts.
3. The manuscripts will be available to researcher and scholars through a Trusted Digital Repository.

Which of the above match is/are Correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

80. Consider the following statement with reference to Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:

1. It is a small deposit Scheme.
2. It is part of Beti bachao beti padhao campaign.
3. Beti bachao beti padhao is a tri-ministerial effort.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

81. Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme has been launched under aegis of which of the following:

- (a) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
(b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
(c) Niti Ayog
(d) Ministry of Human Resource Development

82. Consider the following statements:

1. Recently, Gujarat Government has granted religious minority status to Jews living in the state
2. Gujarat is first state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

83. Consider the following statements about Marshall Islands which was in news:

1. It is a country in the central Pacific Ocean.
2. It is near to equator in the Pacific Ocean and slightly west of the International Date Line.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

84. Consider the following statement with reference to Western Ghats:

1. It is one of the Biodiversity Hotspots and UNESCO World Heritage site.
2. It is older than the Himalayas.
3. The range starts from the south of Tapi river
4. Anamudi is the highest peak in Western Ghats.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4
(c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

85. Sabang Port, Recently seen in news is situated in:

- (a) Indonesia
(b) Malaysia
(c) Singapore
(d) Philippines

86. Consider the following statements about Border haats, recently seen in News:

1. They are market places organized by the two countries one day each week.
2. Currently, Four border haats are operational along the India and Bangladesh border.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

87. Which of the following is defined by The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881?

- (a) Printing of Notes
(b) Repo rate and reverse repo rate
(c) Promissory notes
(d) Minimum support price

88. Shekatkar Committee was tasked with which of the following:

- (a) To enhance combat capability of the armed forces.
(b) Corporate Governance
(c) NABARD's Role in RRB
(d) Relations (Nexus) Of Politicians with Criminals

89. Which of the following state government unveiled first-ever 'Tribal Atlas

- (a) Jharkhand
(b) Odisha
(c) Chhattisgarh
(d) Assam

90. Consider the following statements about Privilege motion which is recently seen in News:

1. It can be moved in any house of the Parliament.

2. The Speaker or chairperson of rajya sabha is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

91. Consider the following statements about Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA):

1. It is an agreement between banks and financial institutions.
2. This agreement aimed at the resolution of loan accounts with a size of ₹50 crore and above.
3. It is part of the "Sashakt" plan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

92. Consider the following statements about Girinka Programme seen in News:

1. It is a welfare programme of government of Uganda.
2. Poorest people get cows and gift first female calf to neighbour to promote brotherhood.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

93. PM Modi recently, visited Uganda. Consider the following statement with reference to its geographical location:

1. It is a landlocked country.
2. It is in the heart of the Great lakes region.
3. It is located in southern Africa.

Which of the above match is/are Correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

94. Consider the following statements about Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), recently seen in news:

1. Its administrative control is under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
2. Main aim is to finance other infrastructure projects with the proceeds of the road cess under CRIF.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

95. India's first Mobile Open Exchange zone to be at which of the following city

- (a) Mumbai
(b) Noida

(c) Vadodara

(d) Pune

96. Consider the following statement

1. Global Tiger Day is held annually on 29th July.
2. Global Tiger Day is created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.
3. Tigers are listed as Endangered in IUCN red list of threatened species

Which of the above match is/are Correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

97. Consider the following statement about National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme:

1. It aims to treat minimum of 3 lakh hepatitis C cases over a period of three years.
2. The programme is part of National Health Mission.
3. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver.

Which of the above match is/are Correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

98. Consider the following statements about NASAMS-II which is sometimes seen in news:

1. It is an advanced air defense system.
2. It has been developed by DRDO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

99. Consider the following statement about about DigiYatra initiative:

1. It aims to transform the flying experience for passengers.
2. It is industry led initiative.
3. It will be coordinated by Ministry of Tourism.

Which of the above match is/are Correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

100. "Mission Satyanishtha" recently seen in news is launched by:

- (a) Indian Railways
(b) Niti Ayog
(c) Ministry of Defense
(d) Ministry of health and family welfare

Explanation:

1. Answer (b) only 2 is correct

- DISHA Week got **celebrated recently** to mark the successful completion of 2 years of the District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA). **That's why this question has been asked to you.**

- District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DDCMC) is named as "DISHA" by the Ministry of Rural Development and also works under is under Ministry of Rural Development. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- "The scheme aims to link higher education institutions with set of at least five villages". **It is the objective of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** is flagship programme of Ministry of Human Resource Development. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

About DISHA Initiative:

- It is for effective development coordination of almost all the programmes of Central Government.
- It monitors the implementation of 28 schemes and programmes of Ministry of Rural Development and other Ministries to promote synergy and convergence for greater impact.
- The **main purpose of this committee is to coordinate with Central and State and local Panchayat Governments**
- Chairperson of the committee will be the senior most Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) elected from the district, nominated by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- The other Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha) representing the district will be designated as Co-Chairpersons.

About Unnat Bharat Abhiyan:

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is flagship programme of Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) that aims to enrich Rural India.
- The second edition (Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0) was launched in April, 2018. Currently 748 institutions are participating under the scheme.
- **The scheme aims to link higher education institutions with set of at least five villages**, so that they can contribute to economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base.
- Objective of the scheme is to engage faculty and students of higher educational institutions in understanding rural realities.

2. Answer (c) Both are correct.

- **Recently Helium-3 was in news because** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s second moon mission — the Rs 800 crore 'Chandrayaan-2' —will hunt for deposits of **Helium-3** (will be launched in 2019)— a waste-free nuclear energy that could answer many of Earth's energy problems.
- It is non-radioactive isotope of helium. The abundance of helium-3 is thought to be on the Moon. **Hence both the statements are correct.**

About Helium-3:

- An ideal candidate fuel for nuclear fusion.
- Formed in the Sun and carried through space on solar winds, helium-3 is extremely rare on Earth.
- Helium 3 is a light, non-radioactive isotope of helium with two protons and one neutron.

3. Answer (d) all are Correct

- **Recently**, India has pledged **\$5 million** for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) in the Near East. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Besides India, 19 countries also made pledges (contributions) for UNRWA at the Pledging Conference for UNRWA held in New York, US.
- Among the donors, Sweden has pledge to contribute US \$250 million over four years, \$ 51 million and UAE \$50 million.
- UNRWA is **relief and Human Development Agency of UN** which supports more than 5 million registered Palestinian refugees, and their descendants. **Hence statement 2 is also correct.**
- It is **only UN agency dedicated** to helping refugees from specific region or conflict and is separate from UNHCR (The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). **Hence statement 3 and 4 are also correct.**

About United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) in the Near East:

- It was created in December 1949 which supports more than 5 million registered [Palestinian refugees](#).
- Originally intended to provide jobs on public works projects and direct relief, today UNRWA provides education, health care, and [social services](#) to the population it supports.

About The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:

- It is Also known as is the UN Refugee Agency and it is a [United Nations](#) programme with the mandate to protect [refugees](#), forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, and assist in their [voluntary repatriation](#), local integration or [resettlement to a third country](#).
- UNHCR was created in 1950, during the aftermaths of [World War II](#). Its headquarters are in [Geneva, Switzerland](#) and it is a member of the [United Nations Development Group](#).
- The UNHCR has won two [Nobel Peace Prizes](#), once in 1954 and again in 1981 and a [Prince of Asturias Awards for International Cooperation](#) in 1991.

4. Answer (C) both is Correct

- The program aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme is applicable only for pregnant women in their pregnancy period of 3 to 6 months. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) launched in 2016 for achieving SDG for Maternal Mortality Rate below 70 by 2030.
- It guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities.
- The health check-up includes a minimum package of prenatal care/antenatal care services i.e care given during pregnancy and medicines such as IFA supplements, calcium supplements etc would be provided to all pregnant women.
- The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with private sector which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign.

Other Women Related Schemes:

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)**, a comprehensive programme is being implemented to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme**, promote community participation through involvement of Student Volunteers for empowerment of rural women.
- **Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)** to provide micro-credit to poor women for various livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic development.
- **Swadhar Greh** to provide relief and rehabilitation to destitute women and women in distress.

5. Answer (b) Jones Lang LaSalle investment Management Company

- Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. (JLL) has released the Global Real Estate Transparency Index

2018. Hence option (b) is correct.

- 2018 Global Real Estate Transparency Index covers 100 markets and is based on 186 indicators.
- These variables are divided into six areas –performance measurement, market fundamentals, and governance of listed vehicles, regulatory & legal frameworks, transaction process and environmental sustainability.

List of indices and Organizations:

Child Development Index	Save the Children
Corruption Perceptions Index	Transparency International (TI)
Democracy Index	Economist Intelligence Unit

Ease of doing business index	World Bank Group
Education Index	UNDP
Environmental Democracy Index (EDI)	The Access Initiative (TAI) and the World Resources Institute(WRI)
Environmental Performance Index	WEF (World Economic Forum)
Gender Empowerment Measure	UNDP
Gender Inequality Index	UNDP
Global Competitiveness Index (GCI)	WEF(World Economic Forum)
Global Entrepreneurship Index	Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute
Global Hunger Index	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Global Innovation Index	Cornell University. INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Global Peace Index	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
Global Slavery Index	Walk Free Foundation
Global Terrorism Index	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
Happy Planet Index	New Economics Foundation (NEF)
Human Development Index	UNDP
Human Poverty Index	UNDP
Index of Economic Freedom	The Wall Street Journal and the Heritage Foundation
Index of Freedom in the World	Freedom House
Networked Readiness Index	WEF (World Economic Forum)

Press Freedom Index

Reporters Without Borders

6. Answer (b) only 2 is Correct

- The statue of Ramanujacharya is set to become the world's second tallest statue of a seated figure. Currently, the Great Buddha of Thailand is the tallest statue, at 302-feet.
- Once the Ramanujacharya statue is unveiled, it will become the second tallest, a distinction now held by the Guanyin figure on Mount Xiqiao in China's Guangdong region, at 203 feet.
- He was a Hindu theologian, philosopher, and one of the most important exponents of the **Sri Vaishnavism tradition** within Hinduism. **Hence statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- He is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta. **Hence statement 2 is correct**
- His philosophical foundations for devotionism were influential to the Bhakti movement.
- He wrote influential texts, such as bhāṣya on the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita, all in Sanskrit.

7. Answer (a) Only 1 and 2 is Correct.

- **Chandrayaan-2** is India's second [lunar exploration](#) mission after [Chandrayaan-1](#), Developed by the [Indian Space Research Organisation](#) (ISRO).
- The mission is planned to be launched to the [Moon](#) by a [Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III](#) (GSLV Mk III). **Hence statement 1 is Correct.**
- If successful, Chandrayaan-2 will be the first-ever mission to land a rover near the [lunar south pole](#). **Hence statement 2 is also correct.**
- It includes a lunar [orbiter](#), [lander](#) and [rover](#), all developed by [India](#). **Hence statement 3 is NOT Correct.**
- Chandrayaan-2 is scheduled to be launched no earlier than January 2019, and will attempt to soft land a lander and rover in a high plain between two craters, [Manzinus C](#) and [Simpelius N](#), at latitude of about 70° south.

About statement 3:

- On 12 November 2007, representatives of the [Russian Federal Space Agency](#) (Roscosmos) and ISRO signed an agreement for the two agencies to work together on the Chandrayaan-2 project.
- ISRO would have the prime responsibility for the orbiter and rover, while Roscosmos was to provide the lander.
- The design of the spacecraft was completed in August 2009, with scientists of both countries conducting a joint review.

- Although ISRO finalized the payload for Chandrayaan-2 per schedule, the mission was postponed in January 2013 and rescheduled to 2016 because Russia was unable to develop the lander on time.
- When Roscosmos (Russia) cited its inability to provide the lander even by 2015, India decided to develop the lunar mission independently, as a Result lunar [orbiter](#), [lander](#) and [rover](#), all have been developed by [India](#).

8. Answer (b) 1 and 4 are correct

- BCSBI has in collaboration with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), evolved two codes – Code of **Bank's Commitment to Customers** and the Code of **Bank's Commitment to Micro and Small Enterprises** – which set minimum standards of banking practices for member banks to follow when they are dealing with individual customers and micro and small enterprises. **Hence statement 1 and 4 are Correct.**

About Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI):

- Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) is an independent banking industry watchdog that protects consumers of banking services in India.
- The board oversees compliance with the “Code of Bank's Commitment to Customers”.
- It is an independent and autonomous body, registered as a separate society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 18 February 2006.

9. Answer (b) West Bengal.

- West Bengal is India's single largest raw jute cultivator producing almost 75 % of the crop in Nadia, Dinajpur, Murshidabad and North 24 Parganas districts. **Hence Option (b) is correct.**
- **A recent initiative called 'The Jute Foundation' (TJF)** is trying to address many issues pertaining to the environment-friendly product. It is trying to engage all stakeholders –farmers, workers, mills, research organisations and consumers.
- **Jute-ICARE** -- An Initiative of The Government to double the income of Jute Farmers
- The **I-CARE programme** unveiled by the National Jute Board and the Jute Corporation of India is planning to introduce a pilot project on retting technologies aimed at increasing farmers' returns.

About Jute Technology Mission (JTM):

Jute Technology Mission (JTM) was approved by the government of India in 2006 and it has 4 mini Missions. The Objectives of the JTM are as follows:

- ✓ To strengthen agricultural research and technology achievements.
- ✓ Development/extension of raw jute Ministry of and transfer of improved technology.
- ✓ To develop efficient market linkages Ministry of for raw jute.
- ✓ To modernize, technologically upgrade, improve productivity, Textiles diversify and develop human resource for the jute industry.

10. Answer (a) only 1 is correct

- Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), **previously named the Bangkok Agreement**, was signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP.
- The six member countries are Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Korea and Sri Lanka. **Hence statement 2 is NOT correct**
- Being the oldest preferential trade agreement among developing countries in Asia-Pacific, APTA aims to promote economic development through the adoption of **mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures** that will contribute to intra-regional trade expansion and provides for economic integration through coverage of merchandise goods, services, investment and trade facilitation. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

11. Answer (d) all of the above

- The SVEEP programme began from Bihar. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The sole idea is to remove gaps in information, motivation and facilitation of the voters and then increase voter turnout in elections. **Hence statement 2 is also correct.**
- SVEEP is a programme of multi interventions through different modes and media designed to educate citizens, electors and voters about the electoral process in order to increase their awareness and participation in the electoral processes. **Hence statement 3 is also correct.**
- SVEEP is designed according to the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state as well as the history of electoral participation in previous rounds of elections and learning thereof.

12. Answer (a) only 1 and 2 are correct.

- The data collected during the **2021 Census will be stored electronically for the first time** since the decennial census began in Independent India in 1951. **Hence statement 3 is NOT correct.**
- The decision for saving data electronically was notified by Registrar General of India (RGI)
- Tampering with any information will be punished under the IT Act this time onwards since it is now being electronically saved.
- The decennial Census of India has been conducted 15 times, as of 2011. While it has been conducted every 10 years, beginning in 1872, **the first complete census was taken in year 1881. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Post 1949, it has been conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. **Hence statement 3 is also correct.**
- All the census since 1951 is conducted under 1948 Census of India Act.

13. Answer (b) Mongolia

- **The Government of Mongolia** on 3 July, 2018 opened the three-day Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction which is being attended by 2,500 participants, including representatives from over 50 countries and 1,500 organizations in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. **Hence Option (b) is Correct.**
- Theme of the AMCDRR 2018: 'Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development'.
- It is convened by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

About Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR):

- Established in 2005, AMCDRR is a biennial conference jointly organized by different Asian countries and the UNISDR. India hosted the second AMCDRR in New Delhi in 2007.
- Objectives
- Transforming the commitments made in Sendai by the governments into visible action.
 - Deciding the direction for implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.

14. Answer (d) neither 1 nor 2

- **This was in news because** India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years, from July, 2018 to June, 2020. Being the Vice Chair of AP Region of WCO will enable India to take on leadership role.
- **First statement is wrong because** it is an **intergovernmental organization**.
- **Second statement is wrong** because **India became its member on 15 February 1971**.
- The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.
- The WCO is noted for its work in areas covering the development of international conventions, instruments, and tools on topics such as commodity classification, valuation, rules of origin, collection of customs revenue, supply chain security, international trade facilitation, customs enforcement activities, combating counterfeiting in support of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), drugs enforcement, illegal weapons trading, integrity promotion, and delivering sustainable capacity building to assist with customs reforms and modernization. The WCO maintains the international Harmonized System (HS) goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.
- The World Customs Organization (WCO), established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
- Today, the WCO represents 182 Customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade.
- As the global centre of Customs expertise, the WCO is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters and can rightly call itself the voice of the international Customs community.
- The WCO has divided its Membership into six Regions. Each of the six Regions is represented by a regionally elected Vice-Chairperson to the WCO Council.

15. Answer (c) 1 and 3 only

- **Second statement is wrong because** IFFCO has partnered with **Singapore-based** technology firm iMandi for this initiative.

- Through this e-commerce platform (app), IFFCO is targeting to reach GMV (gross merchandise value) of \$5 billion in the next two years by catering needs of 5.5 crore farmers already associated with it. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The e-commerce platform is one stop shop for agri inputs and produce, FMCG, electronics, loans, insurance etc.
- It has features like buy-sell, communication, entertainment and information/advisory content to keep farmers engaged. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Using it, farmers buy all agri inputs of IFFCO, including fertilisers, agro chemicals and seeds at discounted price and get free delivery at their doorstep.

What is Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)?

- IFFCO is large scale fertiliser cooperative federation in India which is registered as Multistate Cooperative Society. It is one of India's biggest cooperative society which

16. Answer (a) only 2 is correct

- **This was in news because,** In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 80 of the Constitution of India, and on the advice of the Prime Minister, the President of India has made four nominations to the Rajya Sabha.
- **First statement is wrong because** 12 Members are nominated by President of India in Rajya sabha. Hence first statement is incorrect.
- Under article 80 of the Constitution, the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) is composed of not more than 250 members, of whom 12 are nominated by the President of India from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service.
- Nominated members enjoy all powers, privileges and immunities available to an elected Member of Parliament.
- They take part in the proceedings of the House as any other member.
- **Third Statement is wrong** because they are not entitled to vote in the election of the President of India. Hence Third statement is incorrect.
- But in the election of the Vice-President of India, they have a right to vote.

- A nominated member is allowed six months, should he decide to join a political party after he has taken his seat in the House in terms of article 99 of the Constitution.
- **Fourth statement is wrong because** A nominated member has also been exempted from filing his assets and liabilities under Section 75A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 *which* requires the elected member to do so within 90 days of his making or subscribing oath/affirmation. Hence fourth statement is incorrect.
- Under MPLADS, the Nominated Members of the Rajya Sabha may select any Districts from any State in the Country for implementation of their choice of work under the scheme.

17. Answer (c) Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas is Not India's first indigenous fighter to be inducted into Indian Air Force. In April 1967, IAF had formed the first operational squadron with the indigenous HF-24 Marut fighter.

- **This was in news because;** Indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas of No 45 Squadron (The Flying Daggers) of Indian Air Force (IAF) has formally commenced operations from Sulur Air Force Station in Tamil Nadu.
- With deployment of Tejas, its squadron 'Flying Daggers' took up active wartime role towards safeguarding national skies.

About Tejas fighter aircraft:

- Tejas is the first advanced fly-by-wire Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) designed, developed and manufactured indigenously by state owned Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL).
- It is lightweight single-seat multi-role jet fighter.
- It has been pegged as world's smallest and lightest supersonic fighter.
- It is powered by a single engine.
- It has tailless and compound delta wing design.
- It was developed and manufactured under Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme, which began in the 1980s to replace India's ageing MiG-21 fighters.
- It is equipped with satellite-aided Inertial Navigation System.
- It has digital computer- based attack system and autopilot mode.

- It can fire Air to Air missiles, carry bombs and precision guided ammunition. It has limited reach of a little over 400-km.
- It will be mainly used for close air-to-ground operations.

18. Answer (b) only 2 is correct.

- **This was in news because** Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Bansagar canal project in Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh.
- **First statement is wrong because** Bansagar Dam is a multipurpose river Valley Project on **Sone River** situated in the Ganges Basin in Madhya Pradesh.
- The total canal network under it is 171 kms long.
- Canals under this project will bring waters from Shahdol district in Madhya Pradesh for Adwa Barrage, Meza Dam and Jirgo reservoir.
- The project aims to provide a big boost to irrigation in the region. It promises to be greatly beneficial for the farmers of Mirzapur and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- As per the projections, the project will benefit 1 lakh 70 thousand farmers of Mirzapur and Allahabad districts.
- Son River of central India is the second largest of the Ganges's southern tributaries after Yamuna River.
- The Son originates near Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh just east of the headwater of the Narmada River, and flows north-northwest through Madhya Pradesh state before turning sharply eastward where it encounters the southwest-northeast-Kaimur Range.
- Son is an extension of the Narmada Valley, and the Kaimur Range an extension of the Vindhya Range.

19. Answer (c) both is correct.

- for first time, arch rivals **India and Pakistan took part** in Peace Mission, a multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia to be held in September 2018. The military exercise held under the framework of **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. **Hence statement 1 and 2 are correct.**
- Peace Mission counter-terror military exercise will be held in the Ural Mountains of Russia and almost all SCO member countries are taking part in it.

- Its main aim is to enhance counter-terror cooperation among the eight SCO member countries. It will be for first time since Independence that India and Pakistan will both be part of military exercise, though armies of two arch rival neighbouring countries have worked together in UN peacekeeping missions.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- SCO is political and security grouping headquartered in Beijing. It was founded in 2001. The full members of organization are China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan. They represent over 40% of humanity and nearly 20% of the global GDP. Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia have observer status at present.
- SCO is successor of grouping called Shanghai Five, founded by China in 1996. It comprised Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. In 2001 Uzbekistan was invited to join it and SCO was officially born. After Astana Summit Declaration in 2005, SCO has emerged as a regional security organization.
- SCO's main objective is military cooperation between the members. It also works towards intelligence-sharing, counter-terrorism operations in Central Asia. It is primarily centred on its member nations' Central Asian security-related concerns, often describing main threats it confronts as being terrorism, separatism and extremism. The role of China as well as strategic importance of SCO have increased over period of decade and now address problems like terrorism, separatism and militancy in the region.

20. Answer (d) all are correct.

- **About Copyright Treaty:** The treaty came to force in 2002 and has been adopted by 96 contracting parties till date. It is a Special agreement under Berne Convention (for protection of literary and artistic works). It has provisions to extend the protection of copyrights contained therein to the digital environment.
- **About WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty:** The treaty came to force in 2002 and 96 members. WPPT deals with rights of Performers (actors, singers, musicians etc.) and producers of Phonograms (sound recordings) in digital environment. It recognizes moral rights of the performers for the first time & provides exclusive economic rights to them in digital environment.
- **About World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):**
 - WIPO is one of the 17 specialized agencies of the United Nations. It was created in 1967 "to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world."

- It has currently 188 member states, administers 26 international treaties, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Non-members are the states of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, South Sudan and Timor- Leste. Palestine has observer status. India is a member of WIPO and party to several treaties administered by WIPO.

21. Answer (a) NASA

- NASA's Orion Spacecraft which has been designed to carry astronauts to deep space destinations like Moon and Mars has successfully carried out a series of tests to test its critical safety systems. **Hence option (a) is Correct.**
- The Orion Multi-purpose Crew Vehicle was announced to be built by NASA on May 24, 2011. The new spacecraft is currently under development.
- NASA has named the Orion spacecraft after the largest constellation in the night sky.

22. Answer (b) Only 2 is Correct

- **The criteria for declaring a village as electrified?**
 - The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village. **Hence statement 1 is NOT Correct.**
 - Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centers, Dispensaries, Community centers etc. **Hence statement 2 is Correct.**
 - Basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the Dalit Basti hamlet where it exists.

23. Answer (d) none of the above is correct

- **Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces MSP** for various crops based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**. Both the statements have been **interchanged**, hence both the statement 1 and 2 are **INCORRECT**.
- It is announced at the beginning (**not the end**) of each sowing season. **Hence statement 3 is also incorrect.**

24. Answer (b) only 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

- The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a U.S. trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to

4,800 products from 129 designated beneficiary countries and territories. US congress has voted to renew the GSP through 2020.

- US has announced eligibility review of India, Indonesia and Kazakhstan for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

1. **For India**, the GSP country eligibility review is based on concerns related to its compliance with the GSP market access criterion.
2. **For Indonesia**, the review is based on concerns related to its compliance with the GSP market access criterion and the GSP services and investment criterion.
3. **Kazakhstan's** eligibility review is based on concerns related to its compliance with the GSP worker rights criterion.

25. Answer (c) Reporters without Borders

- In recently released World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2018 by **Reporters without Borders**, India was placed at 138th rank out of 180 nations surveyed worldwide. **Hence option (c) is Correct. For the list of various Index and Their organizations see the explanation of question no. 5.**

26. Answer (a) only 1 is Correct

- **It was in news because** ISRO has successfully conducted ground test of its high thrust version of Vikas Engine.
- Vikas belongs to family of **liquid fuelled rocket engines** conceptualized and designed by ISRO's **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre in the 1970s. Hence statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is Incorrect.**
- Vikas Engine is the workhorse liquid rocket engine powering the second stage of India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), second stage and the four strap on stages of Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and the twin engine core liquid stage (L110) of GSLV Mk-III.
- The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is a research and development center functioning under Indian Space Research Organization.
- It has two units located at Valiamala, in Thiruvananthapuram of Kerala, and Bengaluru of Karnataka.

27. Answer (a) Only 1 and 2 are Correct

- **Third statement is wrong because** it is a statutory body of **Ministry of Women & Child Development**, Government of India.

- It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
- CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.
- The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or Hague Abduction Convention is a multilateral treaty developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) that provides an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another.
- Hague is a city on the western coast of the Netherlands and the capital of the province of South Holland.
- It was in news because taking cognizance of the recent cases of illegal adoptions, Ministry of Women and Child Development directs state governments to ensure registration of all child care institutions and linking to CARA within month.

28. Answer (b) only 2 is correct.

- **First statement is wrong because** it is listed as **least concerned** on the IUCN Red List due to its widespread distribution, with it being common throughout its range and with high densities in those areas where food and shelter are abundant.
- The Golden Jackal is a wolf-like canid that is native to Southeast Europe, Southwest Asia, South Asia, and regions of Southeast Asia.
- The golden jackal is both a predator and a scavenger, and an omnivorous and opportunistic forager with a diet that varies according to its habitat and the season.
- In India, jackal populations achieve high densities in pastoral areas such as Kutch, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Haryana.
- It is present in all protected areas of India except for those in the high elevation regions of the Himalayas.
- The species is included in CITES Appendix III (in India).

- **Jackals feature on Schedule III of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) of India** and are afforded the least legal protection mainly to control trade of pelts and tails.

- It was in news because Destruction of mangrove cover in the Bandar Reserve Forest is forcing the golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) out of its habitat, triggering a conflict with the local communities.

29. Answer- (a) Synergizing NCC and NSS

- Government has decided to set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Swarup to suggest measures to **strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS)**.

- The Committee will deal with on issues like expansion, strengthening training infrastructure, rationalizing resources, reducing manpower deficiency affecting NCC and NSS. The Committee will also submit recommend for building synergies between these two institutions viz. NCC and NSS and further strengthen them for empowering the youth.

- NSS is being implemented in Senior Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities. The design of the NSS envisages that each educational institution covered under the Scheme has at least one NSS unit comprising of normally 100 student volunteers, led by a teacher designated as Programme Officer (PO). Each NSS unit adopts a village or slum for taking up its activities.

About NCC:

- The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is a youth development movement. It came into existence under the National Cadet Corps Act XXXI of 1948.

- It is a Tri-Services Organization, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force, engaged in grooming the youth of the country into disciplined and patriotic citizens.

- It has enormous potential for nation building. The NCC provides opportunities to the youth of the country for their all-round development with a sense of Duty, Commitment, Dedication, Discipline and Moral Values so that they become able leaders and useful citizens.

- The NCC provides exposure to the cadets in a wide range of activities, with a distinct emphasis on Social Services, Discipline and Adventure Training. The NCC is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis. The students have no liability for active military service.

a) Formulating food policy- Abhijeet Sen Committee

b) Disinvestment- G V Ramakrishna Committee

c) **Agricultural credit system- Khusro Committee**

30. Answer (c) both is Correct

- **This was in news because** Union Home Ministry is **planning to create** National Database of Arms Licenses system from April 2019. The decision has been taken by exercising powers under Section 44 of the Arms Act, 1959 (54 of 1959) by amending the Arms Rules, 2016. These rules will be called the Arms (Second Amendment) Rules, 2018.

Features of National database of arms licences System-

- All the arms licence holders, new or old, will be included in a national database of arms licenses system and they will be issued a ***unique identification number (UIN)*** as well.
- Every licensing and renewing authority will have to enter the data in the National Database of Arms Licenses system, which will generate a UIN, and with effect from April 1, 2019, any arms licence without UIN shall be considered invalid.
- Additionally, any existing licensee holding multiple licenses – under Form III – shall on or before April 1 make an application for grant of a single license in respect of all firearms held by him or her under his or her UIN to the concerned licensing authority.
- Where the applicant applying for a licence for restricted category of arms or ammunition is also a holder of a licence for permissible category, or where the applicant applying for permissible category of arms or ammunition is also a holder of a licence for restricted category, the licensing authority concerned shall issue a new licence for restricted or permissible category of arms or ammunition under the existing UIN of the licensee.
- Separate licence books will be generated in case of each licence, separately for restricted and permissible categories of arms and ammunition with an overall ceiling of three firearms under a single UIN.

31. Answer (c) both is Correct

- **United Nations for first time** has finalized Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to better manage international migration, address its challenges, strengthen migrant rights and contribute to sustainable development.
- The compact is the **first intergovernmental agreement** to cover wide-ranging dimensions of international migration in holistic and comprehensive manner, agreed upon by all the UN member states minus the United States.

- It sets out 23 objectives to deal issues ranging from factors that compel people to move, legal channels for migration, combating trafficking and smuggling, harnessing the economic benefits of migration and return of the migrants.
- The GCM is meant to be consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – in which Member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate orderly, safe and responsible migration.

32. Answer (d) all is correct.

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras has commissioned** remotely operable Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) microscope. It is **claimed to be world's first remotely operable LEAP microscope**, as it can be **remotely operated through special terminal by researchers divided geographically**.
- **LEAP is high-performance microscope** that can provide a **precise atom-by-atom view of materials**. It **provides atomic-scale insights into metallic**, which will influence wide spectrum of industries ranging from steel to automobiles and energy to transportation sector. It will also give major thrust to research in nanotechnology, among other fields.
- The **remotely operable LEAP microscope has been developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions** in country, spearheaded by IIT-M. Other partner institutions are IITs of Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Ropar, International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) and Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS).

33. Answer (a) Inequality

- In economics, a Kuznets curve graphs the hypothesis that as an economy develops, market forces first increase and then decrease economic inequality. **Hence option (a) is Correct.**
- The hypothesis was first advanced by economist Simon Kuznets in the 1950s and '60s. Since 1991, the environmental Kuznets curve (EKC) has become a standard feature in the technical literature of environmental policy.

About Environmental Kuznets curve:

- It is a hypothesized relationship between environmental quality and economic development: various indicators of environmental degradation tend to get worse as modern economic growth occurs until average income reaches a certain point over the course of development.

- According to the curve a country's environment is indirectly proportional to its GDP. But after the country reaches a certain level of economic development, the quality of its environments begins to improve.
- Supporters of this hypothesis believe that countries need to reach a particular average income level before they can afford to allocate the resources needed to protect the environment. In other words, poor countries do not care much about the environment as they have more pressing problems to solve.

34. Answer (a) only 1 is correct.

- **This was in news because** the Transport Ministry has proposed to dispense with fitness certificate for new vehicles and make it mandatory to have vehicle tracking system and FASTags for electronic toll collection for all commercial vehicles in its draft amendment to the Commercial Motor Vehicles Act.
- **Second statement is wrong because** it is a technology for **making toll payments** directly from the prepaid account linked to it.
- It is affixed on the windscreen of vehicle and enables to drive through toll plazas without waiting.
- The tag has a validity of 5 years and after purchase, it only needs to be recharged or topped up. The service is applicable to all kinds of vehicles but use of the service is currently voluntary.
- FASTag is a simple to use, reloadable tag which enables automatic deduction of toll charges and lets you pass through the toll plaza without stopping for the cash transaction.
- FASTag is a perfect solution for a hassle free trip on national highways.
- Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) (a company incorporated by National Highways Authority of India) and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are implementing this program with help from Toll Plaza Concessionaires, FASTag Issuer Agencies and Toll Transaction Acquirer (select banks).

35. Answer (d) all is correct.

- The United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP), an agency of the United Nations, coordinates the organization's environmental activities and assists developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.

- It was founded by Maurice Strong, its first director, as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in June 1972 and has overall responsibility for environmental problems among United Nations agencies; however, international talks on specialized issues, such as addressing climate change or combating desertification, are overseen by other UN organizations, like the Bonn-based Secretariat of the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) and the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#). UNEP's activities cover a wide range of issues regarding the [atmosphere](#), marine and terrestrial [ecosystems](#), environmental governance and green economy.
- UNEP has also been active in funding and implementing environment related development projects.
- The World Meteorological Organization and UNEP established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988. UNEP is also one of several Implementing Agencies for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, and it is also a member of the United Nations Development Group.
- The International Cyanide Management Code, a program of best practice for the chemical's use at gold mining operations, was developed under UNEP's aegis.
- UNEP was in news because the UNEP has entered into a partnership with Google to monitor the impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools.
- The aim of the partnership is to develop a platform to enable governments, NGO's and the public to track specific environment-related development targets with a user-friendly Google front-end.

36. Answer (d) all are correct.

37. Answer (b) West Bengal

- The **West Bengal government** won the prestigious **UN Public Service Award** for its initiative to combat child marriage and ensure education to the girl child in the state.
- West Bengal has been awarded for the '**Kanyashree Prakalpa**' initiative that sought to reduce the high child marriage rates and low female education rates in the state.
- Through the initiative, cash was deposited into the bank account of girls for every year they remained in school and were unmarried. This initiative led to a "drastic reduction in child marriage, increase in female education and female empowerment."

- It has been given international recognition by the United Kingdoms Department of International Development and the UNICEF.
- The scheme has two components:
 - a) **Annual scholarship of Rs. 750.00**
 - b) **One time grant of Rs. 25,000.00**
- The annual scholarship is for unmarried girls aged 13-18 years enrolled in class VIII-XII in government recognized regular or equivalent open school or vocational / technical training courses. Recently the bar of income is withdrawn by Gov. W.B. now every girl can apply for that scheme.
- 14 August is celebrated as Kanyashree Day to promote the scheme throughout the state.
- The United Nations (UN) Public Service Award is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide. Through an annual competition, the UN Public Service Awards promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of public service.

38. Answer (b) only 2 is Correct.

- The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) was initially set up as a Cell in the DGCA in January 1978 on the recommendation of the **Pande Committee. Hence statement 2 is Correct**
- The BCAS was reorganized into an independent department under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation on 1st April, 1987. Hence statement 1 is NOT Correct**
- It is the regulatory authority for civil aviation security in India.
- It is headed by an officer of the rank of Director General of Police and is designated as Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation).
- Commissioner of security (CA) is responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of the National Civil Aviation Security Programme.
- The main responsibilities of BCAS include laying down standards and measures with respect to security of civil flights at international and domestic airports in India.
- Monitoring the implementation of security rules and regulations and carrying out survey of security needs.

- Ensure that the persons implementing security controls are appropriately trained and possess all competencies required to perform their duties.
- Planning and coordination of Aviation security matters.
- Surprise/Dummy checks to test professional efficiency and alertness of security staff.
- Mock exercise to test efficacy of Contingency Plans and operational preparedness of the various agencies.

39. Answer (c) only 1 and 3 is Correct.

- The recently released rankings by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) have placed four Indian Public Sector Undertakings among world's top 100 arms producers. These companies are as follows:

1. Indian Ordnance Factories (37th Rank)
2. Hindustan Aeronautics (38th Rank)
3. Bharat Electronics (64th Rank)
4. Bharat Dynamics (94th rank)

- the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is a **Swedish think tank** dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public. **Hence statement 1 is Correct.**

- The Swedish Parliament established the Institute in 1966 with the legal status of an independent foundation.

- [SIPRI](#) is an independent international institute dedicated to research into *conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament*.

- It receives a substantial part of its funding in the form of an annual grant from the Swedish Government. The Institute also seeks financial support from other organizations in order to carry out its research. **Hence statement 2 is also correct.**

- It updates the Global Military Expenditure Database annually. **Hence statement 2 is also correct.**

40. Answer (a) only 1 and 3 is Correct.

- **It was in News Because** International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) releases first Bharat Stage -VI engine certificate for a heavy-duty engine model.

- It is much ahead of the implementation date of 1st April 2020 for rolling out of Bharat Stage-VI norms in the country.
- Thus, it gives sufficient time for product stabilization in terms of making it more robust and cost competitive for the end consumers.
- It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.
- Its main objective is to carry out Research & Development in the field of Automotive Engineering.

About Bharat Stage Emission Standards

- They are emission standards instituted by the Government of India in the year 2000, based on EU (**Not US**) standards. **Hence statement 1 is Correct but statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- It is to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engines and Spark-ignition engines equipment, including motor vehicles. **Hence statement 3 is Correct.**
- The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change. **Hence statement 4 is NOT Correct.**

41. Answer (a) Madhya Pradesh.

- **Madhya Pradesh** state government on July 3, 2018 launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidized power scheme called 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families. **Hence Option (a) is Correct.**
- Under Sambal Yojana, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of Rs 200 per month.
- Under the scheme, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of 200 rupees per month.
- The objective of this scheme to make sure that all the households have power facility in the state.

42. Answer (d) neither 1 nor 2.

- **First statement is wrong** the scope of the pardoning power of the President under Article 72 is wider than the pardoning power of the Governor under Article 161.

- The power differs in the following two ways:

- ✓ **Second statement is wrong because** the power of the President to grant pardon extends in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial but Article 161 does not provide any such power to the Governor.

- ✓ The President can grant pardon in all cases where the sentence given is sentence of death but pardoning power of Governor does not extend to death sentence cases.

- Article 161 deals with Power of Governor to grant pardons, etc, and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases.

- It states, the Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.

- This was in news because Cabinet approves Special Remission to Prisoners on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

- Ministry of Home Affairs will issue advice to all States and UTs asking them to process the cases of eligible prisoners.

- State Governments and UT Administrations will be advised to constitute a Committee to examine the cases. State Governments will place the recommendations of the Committee before Governor for consideration and approval under Article 161 of the Constitution. After the approval, the prisoners will be released.

About Indian Pollution Control Association(IPCA):

It is a not-for-profit, non-government organization(NGO), established in the year 2001 with the support of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

It is registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and Section 80G of the Income Tax Act and India first register Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) with Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) for managing plastic waste at National level

43. Answer (c) both 1 and 2 is Correct.

- It was established on 1 July 1949 as a **statutory body** under the Chartered Accountants Act, [1949](#) enacted by the Parliament (acting as the provisional Parliament of India) to regulate the profession of Chartered Accountancy in India.
- ICAI is the **second largest professional Accounting & Finance body in the world**.
- ICAI is the only licensing cum regulating body of the financial audit and accountancy profession in India.
- It recommends the accounting standards to be followed by companies in India to National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards ([NACAS](#)), and sets the accounting standards to be followed by other types of organisations. ICAI is solely responsible for setting the Standards on Auditing (SAs) to be followed in the audit of financial statements in India.
- It also issues other technical standards like Standards on Internal Audit (SIA), Corporate Affairs Standards (CAS) etc. to be followed by practicing Chartered Accountants.
- It works closely with the Government of India, Reserve Bank of India and the Securities and Exchange Board of India in formulating and enforcing such standards.
- ICAI is one of the founder members of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), and Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA).
- This was in news because Cabinet approves MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance, Bahrain.
- The MoU will provide an opportunity to the ICAI members to expand their professional horizon and simultaneously ICAI will become an entity to aid strengthen building of local national capabilities.
- The aim is to work together to develop a mutually beneficial relationship in the best interest of members, students and their organizations.

44. Answer (a) only 1 is correct.

- This Topic appeared in The Hindu with the Title “**The turning point in 1932: on Dalit representation**”, that’s why this Question has been asked.
- On August 16, 1932, the British Prime Minister MacDonald announced the Communal Award. Thus it is also known as McDonald Award. The Communal Award was basically a proposal on minority representation.
- The depressed classes were given seats which had to be filled by election from the special constituencies in which only they could vote. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- However, they were eligible to vote in the general constituencies as well. **Hence statement 2 is NOT correct.**

- It was declared by Gandhi for more than once that the separate electorates for the depressed class was an attempt to divide and detach the depressed classes from the main body of Hindus. Thus Gandhi ji opposed this award. **Hence statement 3 is also NOT Correct.**

45. Answer (b) Niti Aayog

- **NITI Aayog launched** the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), on the occasion of International Women's Day today. The initiative is aimed at building an ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.
- From providing unique services such as credit evaluation of women-led startups by CRISIL and potential equity investments through an INR 10 crore fund established by DICE Districts, the WEP opens up avenues of growth and opportunity for women entrepreneurs.
- **It was in news because** NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform(WEP) and Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), Office of International Programmes (OIP) University of Delhi, had jointly organised a Two-Day International conference on "Empowering Women: Fostering Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability".

46. Answer (a) only 1 is Correct.

- **Second statement is wrong** because India is world's second largest sugar producer after Brazil with production of around 20-25 million tonnes of sugar every year.
- CACP recommends the fair and remunerative prices based on inter-crop price parity, inflation considerations, fair return to farmers and a host of other factors.
- It is the cabinet Committee on Economic affairs that finally approves it.
- It was in news because Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane.

47. Answer (b) only 2 and 3 are Correct.

- **First statement is wrong** because The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** organised the 'Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan' in five main Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- The State Forest Departments of these five states acted as the Nodal Agencies for the smooth and effective execution of the campaign.

- The campaign was initiated as part of the Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG) component of Namami Gange Programme.
- It was aimed at bringing greater awareness among people and other stakeholders regarding the importance of afforestation for the task of Ganga Rejuvenation.
- As part of the campaign, schools, colleges and departments were requested to “Adopt a Plant” for turning this campaign into a people’s movement.

✓ **Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG):**

- The afforestation is part of the Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG) which is significant as it aims to bring greater awareness among people and other stakeholders regarding the importance of afforestation for the task of Ganga Rejuvenation.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council which was set up in October 2016 under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities order 2016. The order dissolved National Ganga River Basin Authority.
- NMCG has a two tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee. Both of them are headed by Director General, NMCG. Executive Committee has been authorized to accord approval for all projects up to Rs.1000 crore.
- **The order envisages five tier structures** at national, state and district level to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in river Ganga and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water so as to rejuvenate the river Ganga as below:
 - a) National Ganga Council under chairmanship of Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.
 - b) Empowered Task Force (ETF) on river Ganga under chairmanship of Hon’ble Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
 - c) National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
 - d) State Ganga Committees.
 - e) District Ganga Committees in every specified district abutting river Ganga and its tributaries in the states.

48. Answer (b) only 2 is correct

- **First statement is wrong because** it is a biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).**

- The aim of the exercise is to practice Offensive Counter Air (OCA) and Defensive Counter Air (DCA) combat, in a simulated war environment.

49. Answer (b) only 2 is correct

- **First statement is wrong** because the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is an international **non-governmental organization**.
- The IUGS was founded in 1961 and is a Scientific Union member of the International Council for Science (ICSU), which it recognizes as the coordinating body for the international organization of science.
- Currently geologists from 121 countries (and regions) are represented in IUGS through a 121 Adhering Organization.
- IUGS promotes and encourages the study of geological problems, especially those of worldwide significance, and supports and facilitates international and interdisciplinary cooperation in the earth sciences.
- IUGS is a joint partner with UNESCO for the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) and they also participate in the Global Network of National Geoparks (GGN).
- It was in news because Scientists have created a new phase in Earth's geological history and named it Meghalayan, after a stalagmite from a cave in the Indian state of Meghalaya that helped define climatic events 4,200 years ago, marking the beginning of the phase that continues till today and International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) has officially accepted the new phase.
- Besides, two other ages — the Middle Holocene Northgrippian Age and the Early Holocene Greenlandian Age — with beginnings defined at climatic events that happened about 8,300 years and 11,700 years ago, respectively, were also approved by the International Commission on Stratigraphy, which is responsible for standardising the geologic time scale.
- The Meghalayan Age began with a mega global drought that devastated ancient agricultural civilisations from Egypt to China. It is part of a longer period known as the Holocene Epoch, which reflects everything that has happened over the past 11,700 years.
- Evidence of the climatic event has been found in sediments on all seven continents, including those from Meghalaya.

- The Meghalayan is unique because it is the first interval in Earth's geological history that coincided with a major cultural event, as agricultural societies struggled to recover from the shift in climate.

- The droughts over a 200-year period resulted in human migrations in Egypt, Greece, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, the Indus valley and the Yangtze river valley.

50. Answer (d) both statement is correct, question has asked about not correct hence option will be neither 1 nor 2

- AICTE is a **statutory body** established in November 1945.
- It comes under the aegis of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resources Development.
- It is a national-level council for technical education responsible for planning and coordination of technical education and management of education system in the country. It accredits graduate and post graduate programs at Indian institutions.
- **It was in news because** Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved renewal of appointment of Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe as the chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) till he attains the age of 65 years.

51. Answer (b) Only 2 is Correct

- **First statement is wrong** because **Ministry of Home Affairs sponsored** Student Police Cadet (SPC) Programme was launched nationally in Gurugram, Haryana.
 - It was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of Union Human Resources Minister Prakash Javadekar. The programme aims to build bridge between Police and larger community through school students by inculcating values and ethics in them through classes in school and outside.
 - **Third statement is wrong because**, the programme focuses on students of class 8th and 9th. It will be implemented first in government schools, in both urban and rural areas and later expanded to private schools. It takes special care to ensure that it does not increase workload of the students. It does not have any prescribed text book and also any exam. Only one class is proposed in a month under its schedule.
- ✓ Programme will broadly cover two topics
- Crime prevention and control: Topics covered under it include road safety, fight against social evils, community policing, safety of women and children, fight against corruption and disaster management.

- **Values and ethics:** Topics covered under it include values and ethics, empathy and sympathy, tolerance, patience, attitude, respect for elders, team spirit and discipline.
- **Handbook:** Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) with support of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared handbook for imparting instructions. It will also enable learning through group discussions and audio-visual mediums.
- **Implementation:** It will be steered by state level committee headed by Principal Secretary, Home Department with Principal Secretary, Education and Director General of Police (DGP) as members. Besides, similar committee will be formed at district level, headed by District Magistrate with District Inspector of Schools and Superintendent of Police (SP) as members.
- **Funding:** Central Government has released amount worth Rs.67 crores to states for implementation of programme. Besides, amount of Rs 50,000 has been earmarked for each school for educational aids, training and contingency.

52. Answer (d) all are Correct

- **Indian currency was in news because,** the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have released a new lavender Rs 100 currency note. The banknote highlights the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India as it prominently displays a photograph of 'Rani-ki-vav'.
- **After demonetization, the first new notes in this series were available starting 9 November, 2016,** which were Rs 2,000 and Rs 500.
- The magenta Rs 2,000 note featured the much-acclaimed Mangalyaan on the reverse side, while the stone-grey Rs 500 shows the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi.

✓ About ₹ 100- Rani ki vav

- Located in Gujarat's Patan, the 900-year-old structure is a major tourist attraction, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and was awarded as the cleanest iconic place in India in 2016. It is located on the banks of Saraswati River.
- **Who built it?** It was built by the Solanki dynasty's queen Udayamati in the 11th century as a memorial to her deceased husband Bhimdev I.
- **Architectural significance:** Rani-ki-Vav was built in the complex Maru-Gurjara architectural style. It highlights the sanctity of water as it is designed as an inverted temple under the earth's surface. The central theme is the Dasavataras, or ten incarnations of Vishnu, including Buddha. The avatars are accompanied by sadhus, brahmins, and apsaras (celestial dancers).
- It is about 65 metres long from the entrance to the well, about 20 metres broad and more than 30 metres deep. A Vaishnava site (which was common at the time since Lord Vishnu is

intimately associated in mythology with cosmic waters), the stepwell also has a number of Parvati or Gauri sculptures, which are meant to represent the queen as a widow, who builds the stepwell as a means of penance; appeasing the gods so that she can be with her husband in another realm. There are 700–800 sculptures of deities and mythological figures.

Since the site had been flooded for around 800 years, these sculptures and ornate pillars have been exceptionally well-preserved. Rani ki Vav was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014.

✓ About ₹ 200- Sanchi Stupa, Madhya Pradesh

- The very orange Rs 200 currency note debuted on 24 August 2017, and it prominently features the 2nd-1st century BC Buddhist monument Sanchi Stupa with one of its ornate gateways on the reverse side.
- Built by Emperor Ashoka, it is said to be the oldest Buddhist sanctuary in existence and was a major Buddhist centre in India till about the 12 century.
- In fact, over the centuries, there have been additional structures built over the original hemispherical dome (which covered Buddha's relics).
- The site's signature elements are the four beautifully carved Torans (gateways), one of which is also featured prominently in the currency note. The carvings on these gateways show tales from Buddha's life as well as his early incarnations, which are commonly known as Jataka Tales.
- The Sanchi monuments, along with the main stupa, were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1989.

✓ About ₹ 10 - Konark Sun Temple, Odisha

- The Rs 10 banknote was announced by RBI on 5 January, 2018. While the front side has the profile portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, this paper note has the intricately carved Konark Sun Temple from Odisha on the reverse.
- This 13th century sun temple forms part of the golden triangle of Odisha (along with Puri and Bhubaneswar) for travelers and pilgrims. Conceived and built by King Narasimhadeva I as Surya's chariot, this was one of the tallest and grandest temples in India at the time. A fair bit has been written about the building's erotic imagery, though its uniqueness lies in the depiction

of time through architecture, wherein the chariot is pulled by Surya's seven horses (symbolic of the seven days of the week, or the seven metres of Sanskrit prosody).

- The chariot's 12 pairs of wheels symbolise the 12 months of the Hindu calendar, the 24 wheels stand for the number of hours in a day, and the eight major spokes in each wheel signify the division of the day into prahars. No wonder then that this mathematical marvel was recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1984.

✓ **About ₹ 50- Stone Chariot of Hampi, Karnataka**

- The fluorescent blue banknote worth Rs 50 was officially announced on 18 August, 2017, and features yet another chariot temple, but this time from Hampi in Karnataka. Images of the Garuda Stone Chariot have often been used as a symbol of Hampi's treasure trove of temples, which were collectively listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.
- This intricately carved chariot is actually a Garuda shrine in the Vitthala (a form of Krishna) temple complex, and has two elephants towards the front, positioned in a manner as if they are pulling it.
- According to Hindu mythology, Garuda is said to be Vishnu's vahana (vehicle), and apparently a huge sculpture once sat on the chariot, which currently lies empty. With around 1,600 surviving structures inspired by the Dravidian style of architecture, the Hampi group of monuments was built between the 14th and 16th centuries during the Vijayanagara Empire.
- It's said that this chariot was commissioned by King Krishnadevaraya in the 16th century, and modeled on Konark's sun temple after he had fought a battle in the region.
- Called an 'austere and grandiose site' by UNESCO, the 'exquisitely ornate' work on the Vitthala temple and the stone chariot have often been hailed as representative of 'the culmination of Vijayanagara temple architecture'.

✓ **About ₹500- Red fort, Delhi**

- The new Rs 500 note was issued within hours of 8 November, along with the new magenta Rs 2,000 banknote.
- It features the very familiar ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi, along with the national flag flying high.

- One of the main residences of the Mughal dynasty for almost 200 years, the city fort made of red sandstone was built in the 17th century, but not many know that it was originally called Qila-i-Mubarak, or the 'Blessed Fort'.

- Also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Red Fort is unlike all the other monuments featured on this list as it continues to serve a modern-day purpose as the annual platform for the prime minister to deliver his address to the nation on Independence Day.

53. Answer (b) a massive stellar system

- **Recently, NASA has confirmed that** superstar Eta Carinae is shooting cosmic rays down to earth.
- Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR) Mission has clearly identified that some of the cosmic rays that hit Earth from space originate on Eta Carinae.
- Eta Carinae is the most luminous and massive star system within 10,000 light-years away from Earth.
- It is accelerating particles to high energies and some of those particles are heading to Earth in the form of cosmic rays.

About Eta Carinae:

- It is the most luminous and **massive stellar system** within 10,000 light-years.
- It is located about 7,500 light- years away in the southern constellation of Carina.
- It is famous for a 19th century outburst that briefly made it the second-brightest star in the sky.

54. Answer (c) both is correct

- **The Rajya Sabha does not have a procedure for moving of an adjournment motion,** censure motion or no-confidence motion against the Government. **Hence statement 1 is Correct.**
- Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha lays down the procedure for moving a Motion of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers.
- **There is no mention of a no-confidence motion in the constitution. Hence statement 2 is also Correct.**

- The Speaker's permission is required first; and the motion has to be supported by at least 50 MPs.
- This was in news because the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Sumitra Mahajan has admitted a no-confidence motion moved by the opposition against the ruling government.

55. Answer (c) both is correct

- **It was in news because** Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has announced 'Padhe Bharat- Badhe Bharat' an initiative to promote reading culture among students. The initiative has been launched under 'Samagra Shiksha'.

About Samagra Shiksha scheme:

- 'Samagra Shiksha' is an overarching programme for school education extending from Primary till class 12.
- The programme was introduced in the Union Budget 2018-19 with the aim to treat school education holistically without segmentation of primary and secondary education.
- This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
- The major interventions, across all levels of school education, under the scheme are:
 - a) **Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention.**
 - b) **Gender and Equity, Inclusive Education.**
 - c) **Financial support for Teacher Salary.**
 - d) **Digital initiatives.**
 - e) **Entitlements under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 including uniforms, textbooks etc.**
 - f) **Pre-school, Vocational and Sports and Physical Education.**
 - g) **Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training.**
 - h) **Monitoring and Programme Management.**

About Padhe Bharat badhe Bharat initiative

- MHRD launched 'Padhe Bharat- Badhe Bharat' an initiative to promote reading culture among students.
- Under this initiative, government will give an annual library grant to schools to allow students widen their ambit of learning.
- The grant will be given to Primary to Senior Secondary levels and will vary between Rs. 5000 and Rs. 20000.

56. Answer (a) only 1 is correct.

- **Second statement is wrong because** Stree Swabhiman is an initiative **for promoting women's menstrual health and hygiene**. Although it will also create jobs for women but it is not its main objective.
- **First statement is true because it is** under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- Under this initiative, CSC SPV will provide access to affordable, reliable and modern (eco-friendly) sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and women in rural areas.
- Under this initiative, semi-automatic and manual sanitary napkin manufacturing units will be set up at CSC for producing sanitary napkins.
- These micro manufacturing units will be operated by women entrepreneurs and generate employment for 8-10 women.
- HDFC Bank will also support CSC SPV by funding Stree Swabhiman Sanitary Napkin Manufacturing Units.

57. Answer (b) Jordan and Egypt

- **Uniquely, only two of Israel's five potential land borders are internationally recognized while the other three are disputed.**
- Israel's borders with Egypt and Jordan have now been formally recognized and confirmed as part of the peace treaties with those countries. The borders with Syria (Golan Heights), Lebanon (Shebaa farms) and the Palestinian territories (declared as the State of Palestine) are still in dispute.
- According to the Green Line of the 1949 Armistice Agreements, Israel borders Lebanon in the north, the Golan Heights and Syria in the northeast, the West Bank and Jordan in the east, the Gaza Strip and Egypt in the southwest.
- The border with Egypt is the international border demarcated in 1906 between the United Kingdom and the Ottoman Empire, confirmed in the 1979 Egypt- Israel Peace Treaty, and the border with Jordan is based on the border defined in the 1922 Trans-Jordan memorandum, confirmed in the 1994 Israel Jordan peace treaty.
- **Israel was in news because** Israel's parliament has adopted a law defining the country as the nation state of the Jewish people, provoking fears it could lead to blatant discrimination against Arab citizens.

✓ The Nationality Bill:

- The law speaks of Israel as the historic homeland of the Jews and says they have a “unique” right to self-determination there.
- The legislation makes Hebrew the country’s national language and defines the establishment of Jewish communities as being in the national interest.
- Arabic, previously considered an official language, was granted only special status.
- It also establishes the flag, the national symbol and anthem.
- The legislation becomes part of the country’s basic laws, which serve as a de facto constitution.

58. Answer (a) only 1 is correct.

- **Second statement is wrong because** Delhi Dialogue is between **India and ASEAN** countries.
- The 10th edition of Delhi Dialogue (DD X) was held in New Delhi and was hosted by Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. The theme for this edition was “Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation”.
- This was the first major event organised after ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, which was held in New Delhi in January 2018.

✓ Some Facts

- DD X was organised by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). It saw participation of political leadership, policy makers, senior officials, diplomats, business leaders, think-tanks and academicians from India and ASEAN member states. Chief ministers from North-Eastern states were also invited to participate in the event. DD X comprised of six plenary and four parallel sessions, with each session followed by open discussions.

About Delhi Dialogue:

- Delhi Dialogue is premier annual event to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It has been held annually since 2009 and political leaders, policy makers, senior officials, diplomats, think tanks and academicians from both sides participate in the discussions pertaining to ASEAN-India relations. It is aimed at finding a common ground and expanding the scope of cooperation between India and ASEAN nations. The theme of ninth edition of dialogue was “ASEAN-India Relations: Charting the Course for the Next 25 Years”. It had marked the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Partnership.

59. Answer (d) Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is a **critical part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve. Hence option (d) is correct.**
- The reserve, comprising the wildlife sanctuary and the national park, was declared a core tiger habitat in 2007.
- It extends over a core area of 321 sq.km and buffer area of 367 sq.km.
- Union Ministry of Environment has **recently** issued notification declaring 438 sq.km of area around the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve as an eco-sensitive zone.
- The notification followed a Supreme Court order calling for an eco- sensitive zone around all national parks
- The declaration of an eco-sensitive zone would place restrictions on polluting industries but it would not stop agriculture activities in the area.

60. Answer (d) all are correct.

- The standing committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has recently added four species- Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and Red Panda into Centre's Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species.
- They were added on the recommendation by Wildlife Division of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

About Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species:

- The programme is one of the three components of Centrally Funded Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH).
- It was started in 2008-09. IDWH is meant for providing support to protected areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves except tiger reserves), protection of wildlife outside protected areas and recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.
- So far, 17 species were identified under this recovery programme. These are Snow Leopard, Bustard (including Floricans), Dolphin, Nilgiri Tahr, Hangul, Marine Turtles, Edible Nest Swiftlet, Dugongs, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Vultures, Malabar Civet, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp Deer and Jerdon's Courser

61. Answer (c) Walk free Foundation

The report of the Global slavery Index 2018 is published by the Australia-based human rights group Walk Free Foundation.

✓ The estimation data were drawn from 54 surveys conducted in 48 countries which included a module on Modern Slavery, with a total sample of 71,158 individual interviews.

✓ What is Modern Slavery?

- “In the context of this report, modern slavery covers a set of specific legal concepts including forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, slavery and slavery-like practices, and human trafficking”.

- It is used as an umbrella term which refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and abuse of power.

✓ Performance of various countries:

- North Korea is at the top of the list with 104.6 per 1,000 and Japan registering the lowest prevalence rate of 0.3 per 1,000.

- Globally, nearly three-quarters (71 percent) of modern slavery’s victims are women and girls. There are more female than male victims across all forms of modern slavery.

- The 10 countries with the largest number of absolute numbers of people in modern slavery include India, China, Pakistan, North Korea, Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Russia and the Philippines.

- These 10 countries account for 60 percent of people living in modern slavery.

- Findings from the Index highlight the connection between modern slavery and two major external drivers – highly repressive regimes, in which populations are put to work to prop up the government, and conflict situations which result in the breakdown of rule of law, social structures, and existing systems of protection.

✓ Extent of modern slavery in India:

- Among 167 countries, India ranked 53. However, in absolute numbers, India topped the list on prevalence.

- The index estimates that on any given day in 2016 there were nearly 8 million people living in “modern slavery” in India — a claim strongly contested by the government on the grounds that its parameters were poorly defined and too wide-ranging.

- The report said that in terms of prevalence, there were 6.1 victims for every thousand people.

• Reports Published by World Economic Forum-

- 1) [Global Gender Gap Report](#)

- 2) [The Global Competitiveness Report](#)
- 3) [The Inclusive Development Index](#)
- 4) [Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report](#)
- 5) [The Global Enabling Trade Report](#)
- 6) [Global Energy Architecture Performance Index](#)
- 7) [Global Information Technology Report](#)
- 8) [Human Capital Report](#)
- 9) [Environmental Performance Index](#)

• **Reports Published by Economist Intelligence Unit**

- 1) Democracy Index
- 2) Government Broadband Index
- 3) Inclusive internet index
- 4) Global livability Index

• **Reports Published by Oxfam**

- ✓ World Inequality Index.

62. Answer (a) only 1 is Correct.

• **Second statement is wrong because** the implementation agency would be **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** on behalf of Government of India (GOI).

• Ministry of New and renewable Energy (MNRE) has drawn a scheme to set up number of solar parks across various states in the country, each with a capacity of Solar Projects generally above 500 MW.

• The Scheme proposes to provide financial support by Government of India to establish solar parks with an aim to facilitate creation of infrastructure necessary for setting up new solar power projects in terms of allocation of land, transmission and evacuation lines, access roads, availability of water and others, in a focused manner.

• As per the policy, these solar parks will be developed in collaboration with the State Governments. The implementation agency would be Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) on

behalf of Government of India (GOI). The states shall designate a nodal agency for implementation of the solar park.

- Solar park was in news because Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan have topped the list of states with maximum solar power generation capacity approved under solar parks in India.
- Gujarat's total capacity of 6,200 Mw is distributed across 3 solar parks; Rajasthan's 4,331 Mw capacity comes from 6 parks; while 4 solar parks account for Andhra's 4,160 Mw total approved capacity.
- Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have 570 Mw and 2,570 Mw approved capacity, respectively. Also, 7 of the 45 parks have capacity exceeding 1,000 Mw.

63. Answer (a) only 1 and 2 are Correct.

- **Third statement is wrong because** Ministry of Earth Sciences has unveiled state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System– SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at Chandni Chowk in Delhi.
- It is first of its kind and most advanced system in India.
- SAFAR was developed indigenously by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and operationalized by India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- It has been introduced for greater metropolitan cities of India to provide location-specific information on air quality in near real time and its forecast 1-3 days in advance for the first time in India.
- It is integral part of India's first Air Quality Early Warning System operational in Delhi.
- It will monitor all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed and wind direction.
- Pollutants monitored: PM1, PM2.5, PM10, Ozone, CO, NO_x (NO, NO₂), SO₂, BC, Methane (CH₄), Non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC), VOC's, Benzene, Mercury.
- Monitored Meteorological Parameters: UV Radiation, Rainfall, Temperature, Humidity, Wind speed, Wind direction, solar radiation.
- Air Quality Index is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand. It transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour.

- There are six AQI categories, namely Good + Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each of these categories is decided based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts (known as health breakpoints).
- AQ sub-index and health breakpoints are evolved for eight pollutants (PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, and Pb) for which short-term (upto 24-hours) National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.

64. Answer (b) only 2 and 3 are correct.

- **It was in news because** a special unit of the Odisha Police has launched a drive to bust an international syndicate that peddles “endangered” pangolin, one of the world’s most illegally traded mammals.
 - **First statement is wrong because** Pangolins or scaly anteaters are mammals.
 - Pangolin is only scaly mammal on the planet. According to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), it is also the most illegally traded vertebrate within its class (Mammalia).
 - Of the eight species of pangolin worldwide, two are found in India. They are *Chinese pangolin*, mostly found in northeast India and *Indian pangolin*.
 - Pangolins have large, protective keratin scales covering their skin; they are the only known mammals with this feature.
 - Pangolins are nocturnal, and their diet consists of mainly ants and termites, which they capture using their long tongues.
 - They tend to be solitary animals, meeting only to mate and produce a litter of one to three offspring, which are raised for about two years.
 - Pangolins are threatened by poaching (for their meat and scales) and heavy deforestation of their natural habitats, and are the most trafficked mammals in the world.
 - Of the eight species of pangolin, four are listed as vulnerable, two are listed as endangered, and two are listed as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.
 - The third Saturday in February is promoted as World Pangolin Day by the conservation NPO Annamiticus.
 - There are eight species of pangolin, Four Asian species and four African species.
- ✓ Asian pangolin species:
1. **Chinese or Formosan pangolin – Critically Endangered**
 2. **Malayan or Sunda pangolin – Critically Endangered**

3. **Indian or thick-tailed pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) – Endangered. It is also a Schedule I category protected animal, under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).**
4. **Palawan or Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) – Endangered**

✓ African pangolin species:

1. **Tree or African white-bellied pangolin – Vulnerable**
2. **Giant ground pangolin – Vulnerable**
3. **Cape or Temminck's ground pangolin – Vulnerable**
4. **Long-tailed or black-bellied pangolin- Vulnerable**

• MLAT: A process has been initiated to crack the international pangolin smuggling racket, possibly with the help of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). MLAT is an agreement between nations to exchange information or provide legal assistance for enforcing laws.

65. Answer (c) Sri Lanka

• **Recently**, Prime Minister launched India-assisted emergency ambulance service in **Sri Lanka** through video conferencing from New Delhi.

✓ **Some facts**

- The service was earlier introduced in two provinces of Sri Lanka with grant assistance from India and it will now be expanded to the remaining seven provinces.
- In total, India has given a grant of \$22.8 million- \$7.6 million for the first phase and \$15.2 million for the country-wide expansion.
- This is the largest Indian grant project in Sri Lanka after Indian housing project.
- Besides providing ambulances, the grant covers training of manpower in India and meeting operational costs for one year.

66. Answer (a) only 1 is Correct

• **Second statement is wrong because** IndARC is the India's first underwater moored observatory anchored in the Kongsfjorden fjord, half way between Norway (1100km away from Norway) and the North Pole at a depth of 192 metres.

• It has been deployed for the continuous monitoring of the oceanographic parameters from various depths in order to obtain significant inputs in the understanding of the Arctic climate and its possible link to tropical processes, specifically the Indian monsoon.

- IndARC was Designed and developed by scientists from the Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO), National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

✓ Why Kongsfjorden fjord?

- A fjord is a deep, narrow and elongated sea or lake drain, which has steep land on three sides and an opening toward the sea on the fourth side. Kongsfjorden fjord has been chosen as it as an established reference site for the Arctic marine studies. In the course of an annual seasonal cycle, Kongsfjorden fjord has been receiving varying climatic signals from the Arctic/Atlantic Ocean regions. So, it is considered as a natural laboratory for conducting detailed studies on Arctic climate variability.
- Arctic region was in news because three decades after its first mission to Antarctica, the government is refocusing priorities to the other pole — the Arctic—because of opportunities and challenges posed by climate change.
- Therefore, the government has renamed the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) — since 1998, charged with conducting expeditions to India's base stations to the continent — as the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.
- It's also in talks with Canada and Russia, key countries with presence in the Arctic circle, to establish new observation systems, according to a source.
- Therefore, we must know about IndARC observatory as it is related to Arctic region.

67. Answer (b) only 2 is Correct

- **First statement is wrong because** it was constituted by the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment to set up a permanent commission for Denotified (DNT), Semi-Nomadic (SNT), and Nomadic Tribes (NT).
- Bhiku Ramji Idate Commission on DNT, SNT, and NT communities, in its report, had recommended to set up a permanent commission for the communities on the lines of similar commissions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.
- Composition: In its report submitted to the social justice ministry in January 2018, the Idate Commission said such a permanent commission should have a prominent community leader as its chairperson, and a senior Union government bureaucrat, an anthropologist, and a sociologist as members.

- Other important recommendations of the panel include granting Constitutional protection to these communities under a separate third schedule after Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, making them eligible for reservation, and extending the protective cover of Prevention of Atrocities Act to them.

✓ What are denotified tribes?

- Denotified tribes are those that were labelled as criminals through a legislation by British government and were denotified post-independence, the Nomadic tribes maintain constant geographical mobility while semi-nomads are those who are on the move but return to fixed habitations once a year, mainly for occupational reasons.

68. Answer (c) both is correct

- The project was launched in October 2016 with an aim to provide piped cooking (PNG) gas to residents of eastern region of the country and CNG gas for the vehicles. The project envisaged laying 2,050-km pipeline connecting Jagdishpur (UP) to Haldia (West Bengal) by 2018. It covers five states UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.

- This was in news because , five public sector oil and natural gas companies have signed the joint venture agreement to implement the Rs 6000 Crore Northeast gas pipeline grid project which is being implemented under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project.

✓ **Facts:**

- The five companies are Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), ONGC, GAIL, Oil India Limited and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL).
- The joint venture company will have equal equity contribution from all the partners for development of the natural gas pipeline project.
- The schedule for commissioning the project will be four years, including one year pre-project activities.
- With the signing of the agreement the joint venture company will develop, build, operate and maintain the natural gas pipeline grid.

Northeast gas pipeline grid project:

- The proposed gas pipeline grid will connect Guwahati to the major Northeast cities and major load centers.

- Besides connecting all the state capitals in the region, the pipeline will also connect with the National Gas Grid through Barauni-Guwahati Gas Pipeline, which is being laid by GAIL.
- From Guwahati, the pipeline will extend to Numaligarh, Dimapur, Kohima and Imphal in one direction; Shillong, Silchar, Aizawl and Agartala in the second direction and to Itanagar in the third direction. Gangtok will be connected from Siliguri from the gas pipeline of GAIL coming from Barauni to Guwahati.

69. Answer (b) Public Affairs Centre

- **The index is released since in 2016 by Bengaluru base Public Affairs Centre (PAC),** a not for profit think tank which aims to improve governance in India. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- It is based on 10 themes, 30 focus subjects and 100 indicators, relying solely upon government data.
- It covers wide range of themes such as support to human development, social protection, essential infrastructure, women and children, crime, law and order, delivery of justice, transparency and accountability, environment, fiscal management and economic freedom.
- 2018 PAI also included separate index on children of India, giving measure of how child-friendly each of the states are.

Key performers:

- ✓ Larger states:
 - Kerala tops the list as best-governed state in the country. Kerala has topped PAI as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year.
 - Kerala is followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat.
 - Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar ranked the lowest, indicating higher social and economic inequalities in the states.
- ✓ Smaller states (with population less than two crore):
 - Himachal Pradesh topped the list followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura.
 - Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya were ranked at bottom of the index among small states.
- ✓ Index on children of India:
 - In the index on children of India, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram topped the index.

- Centre for Civil Society (CCS) is a non-profit think tank based in New Delhi. The Centre was founded in 1997 by Parth Shah, former Professor of Economics at the University of Michigan. It operates as an independent research and educational organisation.

70. Answer (b) only 2 is correct

- **First statement is wrong** because it has been launched by **NASA**.
- It is an online toolkit launched with an aim to make it easier for users to find, analyse and utilise the relevant satellite data for their research, business projects or conservation efforts. The toolkit provides a simple system that quickly identifies relevant sources based on user input.

71. Answer (b) only 3 is correct

- The 17th World Sanskrit Conference was held at Vancouver, Canada (**NOT Australia**) from 9th July to 13th July, 2018. It was inaugurated by Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar. The purpose of this conference was to promote, preserve and practice Sanskrit language all over world by the people. **Hence statement 1 is NOT Correct.**
- The World Sanskrit Conference is being held in various countries across the globe **once in every three years** under the auspices of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies. **Hence statement 2 is also NOT Correct**
- So far it has been held thrice in India. **Hence statement 3 is Correct.**

72. Answer (d) Myanmar.

- **Myanmar has joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, thus, becoming the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy.
- The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016, on the sidelines of the Marrakech Climate Change Conference (the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties, or COP 22).
- On its first day (15 November), sixteen countries signed the Agreement: India, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Guinea, Mali; Nauru; Niger; Tanzania; Tuvalu; Cambodia; Ethiopia; Burkina Faso; Bangladesh and Madagascar.

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of more than 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- The primary objective of the alliance is to work for efficient exploitation of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- This initiative was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a speech in November 2015 at Wembley Stadium, in which he referred to sunshine countries as Suryaputra ("Sons of the Sun").
- The alliance is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization. Countries that do not fall within the Tropics can join the alliance and enjoy all benefits as other members, with the exception of voting rights.

73. Answer (c) both is correct.

✓ **About National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE):**

- It is **statutory body** of Central Government **set up under NCTE Act, 1993** to formally oversee standards, procedures and processes in Indian education system.
- NCTE plans and **co-ordinates the development of teacher education system throughout the country** (for both central as well as state governments).
- It also ensures the maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system. Its headquarters are in New Delhi.
- This council functions for the central as well as state governments on all matter with regard to the Teacher Education.
- It was in news because- the Lok Sabha has passed the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill to grant retrospective recognition to Central/State institutions that are conducting teacher education courses without NCTE approval.
- This has been done as a one-time measure to ensure that the future of students studying in these institutions is not jeopardised.

✓ **Some Features of Bill:**

- Retrospective recognition of certain teacher education institutions: The Bill seeks to grant retrospective recognition to institutions that have been notified by central government, funded by Central Government or State/UT government and but do not have recognition under the

parent Act. Besides, these institutions must have offered teacher education courses on or after establishment of NCTE until academic year 2017-2018.

- Retrospective permission to start new courses: The Bill grants retrospective permission these institutions to start new course or training in teacher education to institutions.

✓ Difference between constitutional, statutory & executive bodies in India?

1. Constitutional Bodies are formed by the Constitution which helps the Government to run properly.

- Each of this permanent or semi-permanent organization is responsible for the administration of specific functions. Some additional bodies help them by providing advisory functions. Either the president or the Prime Minister of India appoints the chief of these bodies. Constitutional bodies are framed by the Constitution of a nation and can't be abolished without consent of the states. Constitutional body is formed to continue the objectives of the Constitution

Some Important constitutional Bodies:

1. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
2. Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
3. National Human Rights (NHR)

2. An extra constitutional body is an institution of government which is not defined in Constitution of India but are established by a resolution (decision) of union cabinet. For Example Planning Commission, National Development Council etc. They are created by various methods which further explain their nomenclature.

2(A) Statutory Body: They are those bodies which are created by a law passed by the parliament which explicitly mentions the objectives for creation, their composition, Powers. Such bodies are subject to change by a respective change in the law governing them.

Example: National Human Rights Commission (formed to conform to United Nations Charter on Human Rights), Central Vigilance Commission, National Biodiversity Authority etc. (formed out of the Biodiversity Act, 2002)

2(B). Executive bodies: they are those bodies which are created by an executive order – i.e. order of a ministry of union or state. Such bodies have no constitutional or law backing them.

74. Answer (c) both is correct

- **It was in news because;** Fish Samples in Chennai have shown the presence of Formalin.

- This is the first time, samples of fish in Tamil Nadu have tested positive for formalin.
- Formalin, a derivative of formaldehyde is a carcinogenic substance used to prolong the shelf life of fish.
- It is harmful when consumed by humans. Once ingested, formalin releases toxins into the body, and the sustained ingestion of formalin can eventually lead to cancer. A solution which contains 37% formalin has the capacity to kill a fully grown adult. **Hence statement 2 is Correct.**
- It is a toxic chemical, used to preserve bodies and prevent its decay in mortuaries.

Hence statement 1 is also correct.

75. Answer (d) all is correct.

- **It was in news because** as per the latest data, about Rs. 904.80 Lakhs has been received as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) under NCF for development Works at Historic Monuments in last 3 yrs.
- National Culture Fund (NCF) was set up as a Trust under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 in November 1996 by the Government, with a view to mobilize extra resources through Public Private Partnerships.
- The National Culture Fund is managed and administered by a council headed by Hon'ble Culture Minister to decide the policies and an Executive Committee headed by Secretary, Culture to actualize those policies.
- The Fund aims at inviting the participation of the corporate sector, non-government organizations, private/public sector as well as individuals in the task of promoting, protecting and preserving India's cultural heritage.
- All the projects undertaken by the NCF are completed within a specified period, in accordance with an MoU signed by NCF with the concerned donor organization.
- The donations/contributions to NCF are eligible for 100% tax deduction under the Income Tax Act, 1961 subject to the limits and conditions prescribed in the said Section and relevant Rules.

76. Answer (b) to turn asteroids into giant, autonomous spacecrafts.

- **This question has been asked because;** recently, NASA has announced it would give funds to Made In Space's project- RAMA (Reconstituting Asteroids into Mechanical Automata), for finding ways to turn asteroids into giant, autonomous spacecrafts, which could fly to outposts in space.

• **1st option is wrong because** Sriramsagar is an irrigation project across river Godavari in Telangana. **This option has been given to confuse you** between **project RAMA** and **Sri Rama Sagar Project**.

• It recently erupted after a strong earthquake of 6.1 magnitudes shook the country's west Osaka region.

• Project RAMA, Reconstituting Asteroids into Mechanical Automata, has been designed to leverage the advancing trends of additive manufacturing (AM) and in-situ resource utilization (ISRU).

• The project aims to enable asteroid rendezvous missions in which a set of technically simple robotic processes convert asteroid elements into very basic versions of spacecraft subsystems (GNC, Propulsion, Avionics).

• Upon completion, the asteroid will be a programmed mechanical automata carrying out a given mission objective; such as relocation to an Earth-Moon liberation point for human rendezvous.

77. Answer (c) both is correct

• Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is organising a two-day International Round Table Conference "Data for New India" at New Delhi during 9-10th July, 2018.

• The objective of the Round Table Conference is to identify innovative ideas for improving the statistical system in India, taking cue from the best practices followed in advanced countries like Canada, UK and Australia. **Hence statement 1 is Correct**

• Such a Conference is being organized in India for the first time; the conference is expected to suggest measures paving way for initiating the reform process in the Indian Statistical System. **Hence statement 2 is also correct.**

78. Answer (b) only 2 is correct

• **INS Trikand was in news because** it recently reached Sri Lanka in a goodwill visit. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

• INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art warship of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable.

• It can address threats in all three dimensions - air, surface and sub- surface.

- It is a Talwar class of frigates designed and built by Russia for the Indian Navy. **Hence statement 1 is NOT correct**

79. Answer (b) only 2 and 3 are correct

- **First statement is wrong because** in 2003 (**NOT Recently**), National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), a Mission mode Project, was launched by the Ministry of Culture for documentation, conservation, preservation and digitization of manuscripts.
- **It was in news because** National mission for manuscripts (NMM) has digitized 283 lakh pages of 2.96 lakh manuscripts.
- The manuscripts documented and digitized by the NMM will be made available to researcher and scholars through a Trusted Digital Repository.
- The ultimate object of the Mission is to establish a Digital Manuscripts Repository at IGNCA in which researchers and scholars can view and consult the manuscripts to understand our past in its totality.

✓ What are Manuscripts?

- A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other material dating back at least seventy-five years that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value. Lithographs and printed volumes are not manuscripts.
- Manuscripts are found in hundreds of different languages and scripts. Often, one language is written in a number of different scripts. For example, Sanskrit is written in Oriya script, Grantha script, Devanagari script and many other scripts.
- Manuscripts are distinct from historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, firmans, revenue records which provide direct information on events or processes in history. Manuscripts have knowledge content.

80. Answer (d) all are correct

- **It was in news because** by amending Sukanya Samriddhi Account Rules, 2016, the Union Government has reduced minimum yearly deposit required under popular girl child savings scheme, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana to Rs 250 from Rs 1,000 earlier. This has been lowered to enable more people to enjoy benefits of this scheme.
- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) is a small deposit scheme for the girl child launched as a part of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.

✓ Features of SSY:

- It is currently 8.1 per cent and provides income-tax benefit under section 80 C of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Even the returns are tax free in the scheme.
- A Sukanya Samriddhi Account can be opened any time after the birth of a girl till she turns 10, with a minimum deposit of Rs 250 (Earlier it was Rs 1,000). In subsequent years, a minimum of Rs 250 and a maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh can be deposited during the ongoing financial year.
- The account can be opened in any post office or authorised branches of commercial banks.
- The account will remain operative for 21 years from the date of its opening or till the marriage of the girl after she turns 18.
- To meet the requirement of her higher education expenses, partial withdrawal of 50% of the balance is allowed after she turns 18.

✓ About Beti Bachao beti padhao:

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched in January, 2015. • The scheme is aimed at promoting gender equality and the significance of educating girls.
- The Scheme is targeted at improving the Child Sex Ratio through multi sectoral interventions including prevention of gender biased sex selection and promoting girls' education and her holistic empowerment.
- It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

81. Answer (c) Niti Ayog

- **This was in news because** a Statement of Intent (Sol) was recently signed between NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Programme.
- For this programme, the NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation are collaborating to improve indicators in education, health & nutrition, financial inclusion and skill development, agriculture and water resources and basic infrastructure in Aspirational Districts of India.

✓ What is Aspirational Districts Programme?

- Launched in January this year, the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.

- The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a Mass Movement or a Jan Andolan.
- With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.
- The 117 districts were identified from 28 states, at least one from each state, in a transparent manner by a committee of Senior Officers to the Government of India, in consultation with State Officials using a composite index of key data sets that included deprivation enumerated under the Socio-Economic Caste Census, key health and education sector performance and state of basic infrastructure.
- This programme is a policy priority of Government of India. NITI Aayog anchors the programme with support from Central Ministries and the State Governments. While NITI Aayog is steering the initiative in 30 districts, various central ministries oversee 50 districts besides the Ministry of Home Affairs, which focuses on 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts. Officers at the level of Joint Secretary / Additional Secretary have been nominated to become the 'Central Prabhari Officers' of each district. States have appointed state-nodal and Prabhari officers. An Empowered Committee under the Convenorship of the CEO, NITI Aayog will help in the convergence of various government schemes and streamlining of efforts.

82. Answer (a) only 1 is correct

- Gujarat Government has granted religious minority status to Jews living in the state. **Hence statement 1 is Correct.**
- Gujarat is **third state** in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra. **Hence statement 2 is NOT correct**
- The Synagogue Judah Hyam Hall is the only place of worship in Delhi for Jews.
- Constitution of India has not defined word 'Minority' and only refers to 'Minorities' but it speaks of those 'based on religion or language' and rights of minorities have been spelt out in Constitution in detail.
- Six religious communities, viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by Union Government all over India.

83. Answer (c) both is correct

- **It was in News Because**, Recently MoS HRD Upendra Kushwaha visits Marshall Islands; holds talks to boost ties.

84. Answer (d) all are correct

- **Western Ghats was in News because** it has figured in Lonely Planet's top five "2018 Best in Asia" list, a collection of 10 of the best destinations to visit in the continent for the year.
- It came 4th in the list of the lonely Planet, which is considered a Bible by travellers worldwide.
- It is one of the Hottest Biodiversity Hotspots and UNESCO World Heritage site.
- It is older than the Himalayas and well known for its rich and unique flora and fauna.
- Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), which has started blooming after 12 years in the famed hill station of Munnar has found mention in report. The neelakurinji flower blooms only once every 12 years and is expected to boom from August to October 2018.

85. Answer (a) Indonesia

- **It was in news because**; Indonesia has recently agreed to give India access to its Sabang port for operational turnaround for Indian Navy.
- In a first, Indian ship INS Sumitra berthed at Sabang Port close to the Malacca Strait for operational turnaround.
- INS Sumitra sailed from Port Blair to Sabang, where it will take provisions and fuel before going for further deployment in the Indian Ocean.
- It will increase the Indian Navy's footprint in the region.
- Sabang port is in Sumatra island of Indonesia

86. Answer (c) both is correct

- They are market places organized by the two countries one day each week. Currently, four border haats are operational along the India- Bangladesh border. **Hence both the statement 1 and 2 is correct.**
- **It was in news because** first meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats was recently held in Agartala, Tripura.

- In the meeting both sides noted the positive impact of Border Haats on the livelihoods of the people living in areas adjoining the Haats. Extensive discussions were held on issues related to review of operations of the four functional Border Haats.

87. Answer (c) Promissory notes.

- **The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881** defines **promissory notes**, bills of exchange and cheques. It also specifies penalties for bouncing of cheques and other violations with respect to such negotiable instruments.

✓ **What is a negotiable instrument?**

- It refers to any legal documents like cheques, promissory notes, bill of exchange etc which promises to pay bearer or holder of instrument or person whose name is written on instrument specific amount of money either on demand or after specified time i.e. on some future date.
- It was in news because Lok Sabha has passed Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to reduce the number of cheque dishonour cases pending in courts.
- The bill amends Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 to primarily address issues of dishonor of cheques and deal with unnecessary delay in disposal of such cases.

✓ **Features of Bill:**

- **Interim compensation:** The Bill inserts new Section 143 A in parent Act to allow court trying offence related to cheque bouncing to direct drawer (person who writes cheque) to pay interim compensation to complainant. This compensation may be paid under certain circumstances, including where drawer pleads not guilty of accusation. It will not exceed 20% of cheque amount and will be paid by drawer within 60 days of trial court's order to pay such compensation.
- **Deposit in case of appeal:** The Bill inserts another new Section 148-A in the parent act specifying that if drawer convicted in cheque bouncing case files appeal, appellate court may direct him to deposit minimum of 20% of fine or compensation awarded by trial court during conviction. This amount will be in addition to any interim compensation paid by drawer during earlier trial proceedings.
- **Returning interim compensation:** In case drawer is acquitted during trial or by appellate court, then court will direct complainant to return interim compensation (or deposit in case of an appeal case), along with interest. This amount will be repaid within 60 days of court's order.

88. Answer (a) to enhance combat capability of the armed forces.

- **It was in news because the government recently** reviewed the implementation of ambitious reform initiative for the Indian Army based on recommendations of a committee headed by Lt Gen (retd) DB Shekatkar.

- Shekatkar Committee was tasked with suggesting steps to enhance combat capability of the armed forces.

✓ **Measures as recommended by the Committee and taken up for implementation include:**

- Optimization of Signals Establishments to include Radio Monitoring Companies, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments.
- Restructuring of repair echelons in the Army to include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Static / Station Workshops in the field Army.
- Redeployment of Ordnance echelons to include Vehicle Depots, Ordnance Depots and Central Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.
- Better utilization of Supply and Transportation echelons and Animal Transport Units.
- Closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations.
- Enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army.
- Improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps.

Other option was related to-

1. **Kumarmanglam Birla Report:** Corporate Governance
2. **UK Sharma Committee**
3. **NN Vohra Committee :** Relations (Nexus) Of Politicians With Criminals

89. Answer (b) Odisha

- **Odisha Government has unveiled first-ever 'Tribal Atlas of Odisha'**, a compilation of demographic and cultural information of the tribal population in the state. This book will help provide comprehensive data on tribal population.

- It is claimed to be first-of-its-kind tribal compilation in the country. The book was published by SC and ST Research and Training Institute in collaboration with Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC).

- Background: As per Census 2011, Odisha has the second highest tribal population in the country after Madhya Pradesh.

90. Answer (c) both is correct

- **It was in news because** the Congress has submitted a notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan for a privilege motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for allegedly misleading the House on the commercial value of the deal to buy Rafale fighter jets from France.

✓ **What is a privilege motion?**

- Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can “effectively discharge their functions”. When any of these rights and immunities is disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.

✓ **How it is moved and who can move it?**

- A notice is moved in the form of a motion by any member of either House against those being held guilty of breach of privilege. Each House also claims the right to punish as contempt actions which, while not breach of any specific privilege, are offences against its authority and dignity.

✓ **What are the rules governing privilege?**

- Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and correspondingly Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook governs privilege. It says that a member may, with the consent of the Speaker or the Chairperson, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House or of a committee thereof. The rules however mandate that any notice should be relating to an incident of recent occurrence and should need the intervention of the House. Notices have to be given before 10 am to the Speaker or the Chairperson.

✓ **What is the role of the Speaker/Rajya Sabha Chair?**

- The Speaker/RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion. The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament. If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under Rule 222, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

✓ **What is the privileges committee?**

- In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates a committee of privileges consisting of 15 members as per respective party strengths. A report is then presented to the House for its consideration. The Speaker may permit a half-hour debate while considering the report. The Speaker may then pass final orders or direct that the report be tabled before the House.
- A resolution may then be moved relating to the breach of privilege that has to be unanimously passed. In the Rajya Sabha, the deputy chairperson heads the committee of privileges that consists of 10 members.

91. Answer (d) all are correct

- **This was in news because** more than 50 banks and financial institutions in India have entered into an inter-creditor agreement to speed up the resolution of stressed assets of Rs 50 crore and above that are under consortium lending.

✓ What is Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA)?

- The inter-creditor agreement is aimed at the resolution of loan accounts with a size of ₹50 crore and above that are under the control of a group of lenders.
- It is part of the “Sashakt” plan approved by the government to address the problem of resolving bad loans.
- The agreement is based on a recommendation by the Sunil Mehta committee that looked into resolution of stressed assets.

✓ How it works?

- The agreement says if 66% of lenders by value agree to a resolution plan, it would be binding on all lenders. The dissenting creditors will, however, have the option to sell their loans to other lenders at a discount of 15% to the liquidation value, or buy the entire portfolio paying 125% of the value agreed under the debt resolution plan by other lenders.
- The agreement says each resolution plan would be submitted to an overseeing committee comprising experts from the banking industry. For dissenting creditors, the agreement says the “lead bank has the right, but not the obligation, to arrange the buyout of the loan facilities at a value that is equal to 85% of the liquidation or the resolution value —whichever is lower.”
- Dissenting creditors can also exit by selling their loans to any entity at a price mutually arrived at between the lender and buyer.
- The agreement has a standstill clause wherein all lenders are barred from enforcing any legal action against the borrower for recovery of dues. During the standstill period, lenders are barred from transferring or assigning their loans to anyone except a bank or finance company.
- The standstill provision will be operative for 180 days from the reference date — the RBI had asked lenders to resolve their restructured loans within 180 days beginning March 1 or refer those to the bankruptcy court. However, the provision would not prevent lenders from acting against borrowers or directors for criminal offence. Lenders are in the process of getting this inter-creditor agreement approved by their boards.

✓ Sashakt Plan

- The Sunil Mehta committee which was formed with a view to tackle Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and creating credit capacity submitted its report with recommendations to Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal on July 2, 2018.
- The Sunil Mehta panel presented project 'Sashakt' and has recommended a five-pronged strategy to deal with NPAs in the country's banking system.
- The five-pronged strategy includes — SME Resolution Approach (SRA), Bank Led Resolution Approach (BLRA), AMC / AIF led resolution approach, NCLT / IBC approach, and asset-trading platform.
- The report recommends a five pronged approach for loans from Rs 50 crore, Rs 50-500 crore and loans above Rs 500 crore.
- The committee has also suggested an asset trading platform for both performing and non-performing assets.
- The plan focuses on turning around assets in a manner that will create additional jobs by reviving businesses and prevent job losses from foreclosures.

92. Answer (b) only 2 is correct

- **First statement is wrong because** it is a welfare programme of government of Rwanda (**NOT Uganda**).
- **It was in news because** Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted 200 cows to villagers from Rweru villages as part of Rwandan Government's Girinka Programme.

✓ What is Girinka Programme?

- The programme was initiated by President Paul Kagame in response to alarmingly high rate of childhood malnutrition and as way to accelerate poverty reduction and integrate livestock and crop farming.
- Under this programme, poorest residing in region get cows from Government and gift first female calf to neighbour to promote brotherhood.
- The programme is based on premise that providing dairy cow to poor, transforms livelihoods, reconciles communities improving agricultural productivity through use of manure as fertilizers.
- The program has contributed to increase in agricultural production in Rwanda – especially milk production and products and has reduced malnutrition and increased incomes.

93. Answer (a) only 1 and 2 is correct

- **Third statement is wrong because** Uganda is located in **eastern Africa (NOT southern Africa)**, west of Kenya, south of South Sudan, east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and north of Rwanda and Tanzania.
- It is in the heart of the Great Lakes region, and is surrounded by three of them, Lake Edward, Lake Albert, and Lake Victoria.
- While much of its border is lakeshore, Uganda is landlocked with no access to the sea.
- The country is mostly plateau with a rim of mountains.
- The climate is tropical and generally rainy with two dry seasons (December to February, June to August).
- It is semiarid in the northeast.
- **It was in news because PM Modi** visited two African Nations- Rwanda and Uganda.

94. Answer (b) only 2 is correct

- **First statement is wrong because** the administrative control of Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) has been **transferred to the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Finance Ministry**.
- So far, it was under the domain of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and that's why it was in news.

✓ **What's the background?**

- Over the last one and a half decade, the Central Road Fund (CRF) was a major revenue for the government to finance ambitious road projects. The CRF launched in 2000 is basically a cess imposed along with excise duty on petrol and diesel.
- The cess revenue was accrued to the CRF which was uniquely created and out of this major road projects were financed ever since its launch.

✓ **Conversion of CRF into Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF):**

- The budget 2018 has amended the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, and has renamed the Central Road Fund as Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF).

- Main purpose of the amendment is to use the proceeds of the road cess under CRIF to finance other infrastructure projects including waterways, some portion of the railway infrastructure and even social infrastructure including education institutions, medical colleges etc.
- The amendment prescribes that road cess is first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and later, after adjusting for the cost of tax collection, should go to the CRIF.
- As per the amendment, the share for each infrastructure areas and projects from the CRIF shall be finalised by a Committee, constituted by the Central government. The Committee will be headed by the Finance Minister.

95. Answer (b) Noida

- **Country's first Mobile Open Exchange (MOX) zone will be opened in Noida.**
- UP government had signed MoU with World Trade Centre, Noida at UP Investors Summit to develop Tech Zone which will act as catalyst for growth of mobile and allied sectors in the state?
- MOX will be a dedicated ecosystem for mobile industry, providing an integrated platform to mobile manufacturers, research and development and allied industries.
- It brings infrastructure service providers, handset manufacturers, mobile content, application and service providers, retailers and distributors at one place which promotes indigenous R&D in hardware and start-ups in app development and other domains of the industry.

96. Answer (d) all is correct

- Global Tiger Day, often called International Tiger Day, is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July.
- It was created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.
- The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.

✓ Conservation efforts:

- The concentrated efforts of independent activists, government policies, and amendments to the Wild Life Protection Act, and rising awareness have helped push the number of the wild cats to 2,226 in 2014, when the last tiger census was held.

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has launched the M-STrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status), a mobile monitoring system for forest guards.
- At the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010, leaders of 13 tiger range countries resolved to do more for the tiger and embarked on efforts to double its number in the wild, with a popular slogan 'T X 2'. The Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) program of the World Bank, using its presence and convening ability, brought global partners together to strengthen the tiger agenda.
- Over the years, the initiative has institutionalised itself as a separate entity in the form of the Global Tiger Initiative Council (GTIC), with its two arms – the Global Tiger Forum and the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program.
- The Project Tiger, launched way back in 1973, has grown to more than 50 reserves amounting to almost 2.2% of the country's geographical area.
- Additionally, improving patrolling and doing it specifically in areas vulnerable to poaching can bring the crime rate down.

✓ **Concerns and challenges:**

India has one of the lowest per capita forest areas in the world. Forests as carbon sinks are deemed to be a major mean of controlling climate change. Depletion of forests is responsible for reduction of tiger habitats.

- Reduced food base: As forestlands fall to development projects, habitable land for animals that make for the tiger's food base are also reduced.
- Poaching: Another issue that has hindered tiger conservation in India and globally is poaching, which will persist as long as there is an illegal market for tiger body parts.
- Climate change: Rising sea level as a result of climate change is on the verge of wiping out Sundarbans, one of the last remaining habitats of the Bengal tigers.

97. Answer (d) all is correct

- Hepatitis is an inflammation of the Liver.
- With an aim to combat viral hepatitis and reduce mortality and morbidity associated with it, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme. It was launched on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day that is July 28.
- The theme for World Hepatitis Day 2018 is "Test. Treat. Hepatitis".

✓ National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme:

- Aim: The programme aims at both prevention and treatment of hepatitis which is among leading causes of liver cancer, cirrhosis of liver and acute liver failure.
- Target: It aims to treat minimum of 3 lakh hepatitis C cases over a period of three years for eliminating deadly condition by 2030.
- The programme is part of National Health Mission. Under it, expensive antiviral for hepatitis B and C infections will be made available free of cost at all government hospitals.
- Treatment: It will set up and upgrade facilities for diagnosis and treatment primarily of hepatitis B and C. These designated treatment centres will provide free anti-viral to hepatitis C patients. They will also provide hepatitis B vaccine to babies born to mothers carrying the virus within 24 hours of birth.
- Decentralization: The programme also aims to build capacities at national, state, district levels and sub-district level up to Primary Health Centres (PHC) and health and wellness centres to scale program till lowest level of the healthcare facility in a phased manner.

✓ What is hepatitis?

- Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. The condition can be self-limiting or can progress to fibrosis (scarring), cirrhosis or liver cancer. Hepatitis viruses are the most common cause of hepatitis in the world but other infections, toxic substances (e.g. alcohol, certain drugs), and autoimmune diseases can also cause hepatitis.

✓ Types of Hepatitis:

- There are 5 main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E.
- These 5 types are of greatest concern because of the burden of illness and death they cause and the potential for outbreaks and epidemic spread.
- In particular, types B and C lead to chronic disease in hundreds of millions of people and, together, are the most common cause of liver cirrhosis and cancer.
- Hepatitis A and E are typically caused by ingestion of contaminated food or water. Hepatitis B, C and D usually occur as a result of parenteral contact with infected body fluids.

✓ How it is Spread:

- Common modes of transmission for these viruses include receipt of contaminated blood or blood products, invasive medical procedures using contaminated equipment and for hepatitis B transmission from mother to baby at birth, from family member to child, and also by sexual contact.
- Acute infection may occur with limited or no symptoms, or may include symptoms such as jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), dark urine, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

98. Answer (a) only 1 is correct

- **It was in news because** India is in talks with United States to procure National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II).
- **Second Statement is wrong because** NASAMS-II is an upgraded version of the NASAMS developed by Raytheon in partnership with KONGSBERG Defence and Aerospace of Norway.
- It features new 3D mobile surveillance radars and 12 missile launchers for quicker reaction.
- NASAMS-II is highly adaptable mid-range solution for any operational air defence requirement. It provides tailorable, state-of-the-art defence system that can maximise the ability to quickly identify, engage and destroy current and evolving enemy aircraft, UAV or emerging cruise missile threats.
- NASAMS-II is armed with 3D Sentinel radars, short and medium-range missiles, launchers, fire-distribution centers and command-and-control units to quickly detect, track and shoot down multiple airborne threats. It is part of the air defence network guarding US capital city Washington DC. It is also deployed in several NATO countries.

✓ **Significance for India:**

- India's purchase of NASAMS-II will help in preventing 9/11-type on NCT Delhi. It will also complement India's other systems such as the medium and long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems under procurement. With this, India will join league of nations including US, Russia and Israel etc. who have their own missile defence systems to protect their national capital regions.

99. Answer (a) only 1 and 2 is correct

- **Third statement is wrong because** DigiYatra is an industry-led initiative coordinated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in line with Digital India programme.
- It aims to transform the flying experience for passengers and position Indian Aviation amongst the most innovative aviation networks in the world.
- The facility will use digital technology to enhance air passenger experience all the way from ticket booking to airport entry check, security check and aircraft boarding.

✓ **How it works?**

- For this, a passenger needs to enrol into DigiYatra program through AirSewa app and a DigiYatra verified passenger will get hassle free entry at the airport through E-Gates.
- At the entry gate, a single token for the passenger will be created. This will also facilitate walk-through security scanners swiftly owing to advanced biometric security solutions.

100. Answer (a) Indian Railway

Aim: This mission aims at sensitizing all railway employees about the need to adhere to good ethics and to maintain high standards of integrity at work.

Objectives of the Mission are:

1. To train every employee to understand the need and value of ethics in Personal and Public life.
2. To deal with ethical dilemmas in life and Public Governance.
3. To help understand the policies of Indian Railways on ethics and integrity and the employee's role in upholding the same.
4. To develop inner governance through tapping inner resources.